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End of an Era

FIVE QUESTIONS
Ron Kellogg

CHAMPIONSHIP PREVIEW
Big 12 Title Game

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passed for two
touchdowns and
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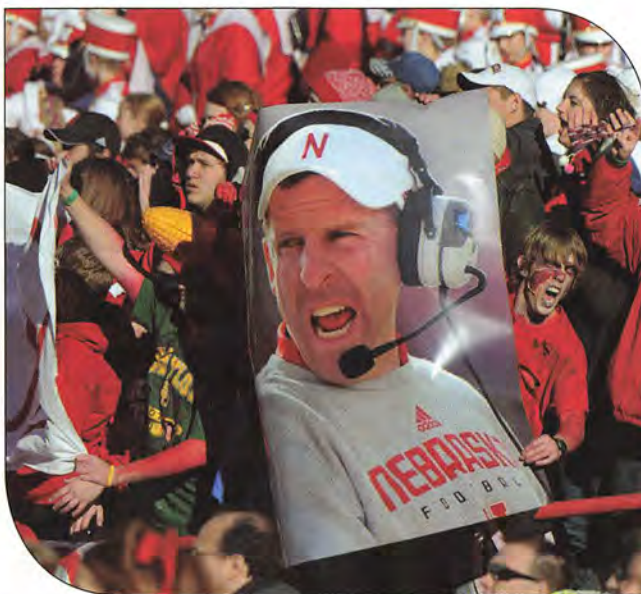
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NEXT ISSUE

Volume 31, Issue 1, the Big 12 Championship recap, will be mailed Monday, Dec. 13. Check for updates at huskersillustrated.com.



HUSKERS
ILLUSTRATED

ON THE COVER

Rex Burkhead helped lead the Huskers to their second straight Big 12 North Division Championship by rushing for 101 yards on 19 carries. He also threw a pair of touchdown passes to Brandon Kinnie and Tyler Reed.

Photo by Scott Bruhn

A FITTING END

Huskers, Sooners should be a classic championship

THE BIG 12 as we know it will end Saturday.

And it will end the way it should.

Nebraska vs. Oklahoma.

Since Nebraska's move to the Big Ten was announced this summer, Husker fans have been dreaming of this scenario – one last battle against their old foe.

Husker fans deserve it. Sooner fans deserve it.

We can only hope that the final chapter in this storied rivalry will live up to the tradition that was written through the first 85 meetings.

There have been countless great moments in a series that began on Nov. 23, 1912 (which Nebraska won 13-9 in Lincoln). We've made an attempt to help you relive this series throughout this issue. We've included our list of the five greatest games in series history, as well as some of our great photography from those games.

We know this issue can't begin to capture the emotion tied to this series. And while Saturday's game would have a much different feel if the Sooners and Cornhuskers had played each year since the formation of the Big 12, football fans around the country can remember it for what it once was – a classic battle between two of the nation's top programs.

While a matchup against Oklahoma has been on the minds of Husker fans since the summer, a championship has been eluding Nebraska for much longer. This will be Nebraska's sixth trip to the



Big 12 Championship Game, with titles in 1997 and 1999. That 12-year wait has been arduous.

But the wait since losing to Texas last December has felt like a lifetime. Sure a Big Ten Championship in 2011 would be fantastic. But a Big 12 Championship in 2010 would feel like justice.

I like Nebraska's chances on Saturday. Nebraska is coming off a game where it did everything right. Oklahoma is coming off an emotionally exhausting, 47-41 win against Oklahoma State.

Nebraska will have an extra day of rest and preparation, while Oklahoma was taken to the wire in what might have been the most entertaining game of the college football season. Oklahoma quarterback Landry Jones threw 62 passes for 468 yards – impressive for sure. But if Jones throws 62 times against Nebraska's secondary, I think the Huskers will make him pay.

Nebraska will be ready to play. Bo Pelini always has his teams ready for the biggest games. The biggest question will be Nebraska's offense. Can Nebraska consistently move the ball against the Sooners?

If the Huskers establish a solid offensive attack, the Big 12 will end the way it should – with a championship. **N**

Send me your comments or story ideas to aaron@huskersillustrated.com.





THESE GATES PASS THE GREATEST FANS IN COLLEGE FOOTBALL

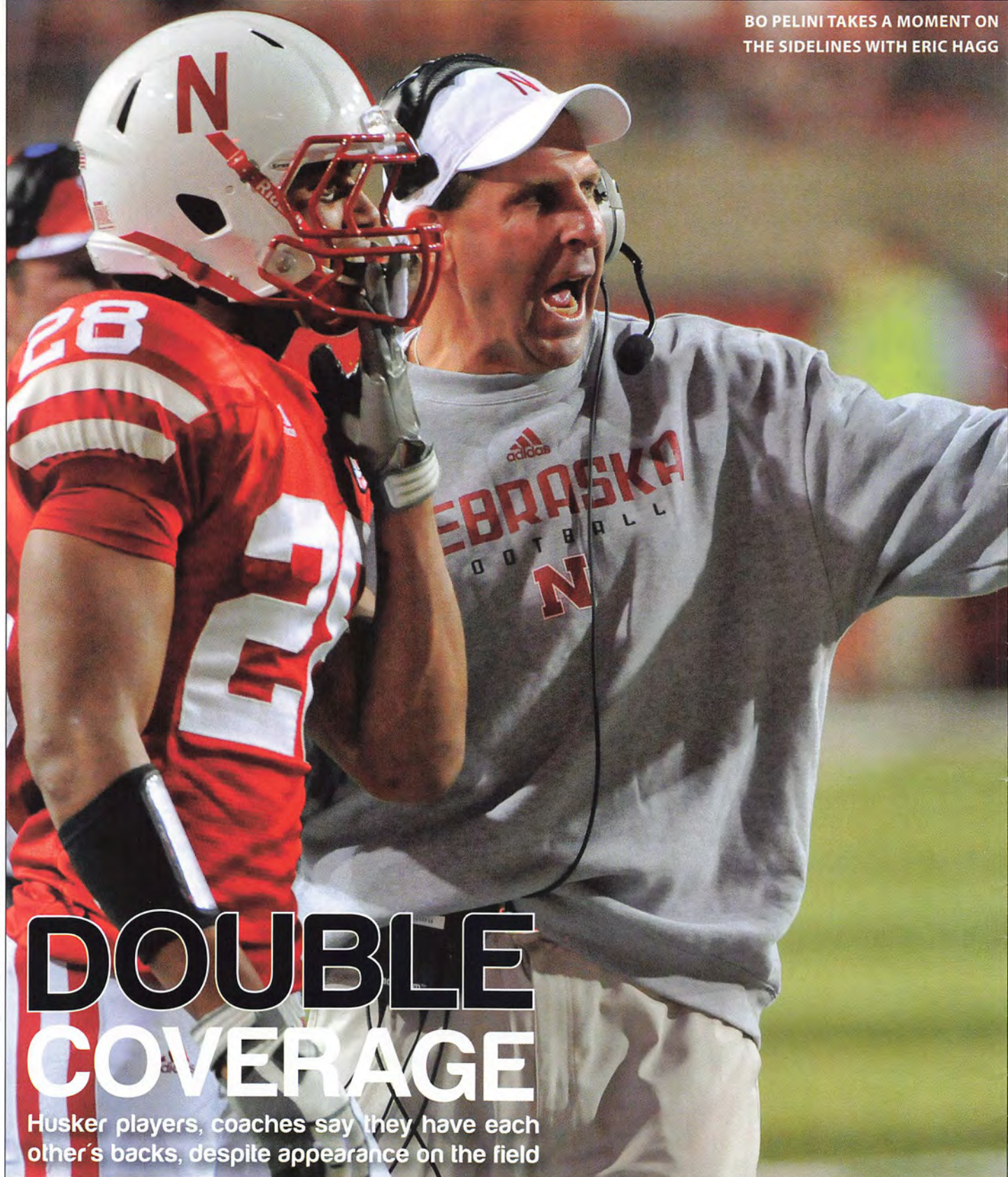
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BO PELINI TAKES A MOMENT ON
THE SIDELINES WITH ERIC HAGG



DOUBLE COVERAGE

Husker players, coaches say they have each
other's backs, despite appearance on the field

The first time Bo Pelini got in his face, well, “it was really scary,” Eric Hagg said. Nevertheless, Pelini is a players’ coach, according to the senior safety.

“Oh my gosh, yeah, Coach Pelini is an awesome coach,” said Hagg.

“Of course he has it his way, but his way is the best way, so there’s no arguing about it. And he’s definitely, like, whatever you need he’s there to help you.”

Hagg’s comments came on the Monday after the Huskers’ 9-6 loss at Texas A&M, during which Pelini was particularly demonstrative in his criticism of game officials as well as a couple of players, including quarterback Taylor Martinez and tight end Ben Cotton.

In apologizing for his sideline behavior at the beginning of his weekly news conference on the Monday before the Colorado game, Pelini said: “One thing about our players, I promise you, they know this, that I got their back. And they understand also that I expect them to have mine. That means to represent this program all the time, no matter what the situation.”

Junior defensive tackle Jared Crick said he didn’t think Pelini needed to apologize.

“That’s just Coach sticking up for us,” said Crick. “For those who were there, you gotta be there to really understand what was happening. That’s just Coach showing his fire. And I was the same way. You didn’t see that. No, I don’t think he should have apologized. That’s just Coach being Coach.

“I got his back no matter what.”

Senior safety DeJon Gomes expressed a similar attitude about Pelini’s sideline demeanor.

“If it has any impact, it’s a positive impact,” Gomes said. “If you’re on the sideline and you see the passion and the desire to win that’s in his eyes, then you understand. And you almost want it that much more. If a coach who can’t get on the field and play for himself has that much desire to win, it drives you that much more to go out there and compete at the highest level.”

All three have been the focus of Pelini’s ire. But the players understand, in time.

“He looks fierce on camera, but he’s really not,” said Hagg. “He’s really nice.”

HI’S TOP 5

FIVE OU GAMES (OF MANY) TO REMEMBER



Picking just five games from the Nebraska-Oklahoma rivalry is no easy task, even though the two at the top of the list should be obvious. No Sooner victories are included on this list, even though Oklahoma has had an advantage in the series, now coming to an end.

- 1 NEBRASKA 35, OKLAHOMA 31** (Norman)
Nov. 25, 1971; Consensus selection as the “Game of the Century,” nothing more need be said.
- 2 NEBRASKA 25, OKLAHOMA 21** (Lincoln)
Oct. 31, 1959; Happy Halloween, Bill Jennings’ Huskers snap Oklahoma’s 74-game conference unbeaten streak.
- 3 NEBRASKA 17, OKLAHOMA 14** (Lincoln)
Nov. 11, 1978; Tom Osborne’s first victory against Barry Switzer, after five consecutive losses (see Games Remembered).
- 4 NEBRASKA 29, OKLAHOMA 20** (Lincoln)
Nov. 23, 1963; Game on despite the assassination of JFK the day before, with OU ranked sixth.
- 5 NEBRASKA 20, OKLAHOMA 10** (Lincoln)
Oct. 27, 2001; Eric Crouch Heisman moment compliments of Mike Stuntz on “black 41 flash reverse pass” sinks No. 2-ranked Sooners.

HENERY MISSES? ▶▶▶

For the second consecutive season, Alex Henery was a semifinalist for the Lou Groza Award. And for the second consecutive season, he was not a finalist for the award as the nation's best collegiate kicker, even though he could set as many as six NCAA career place-kicking records.

"I was shocked about that," said assistant John Papuchis, who works with the kickers. "Obviously, the other guys who were finalists are quality players, but I wouldn't trade Alex for anybody."

"I was disappointed for him because I think he deserves it."

For the record, the finalists included Oklahoma State's Dan Bailey as well as Southern Mississippi's Danny Hrapmann and Notre Dame's David Ruffer.

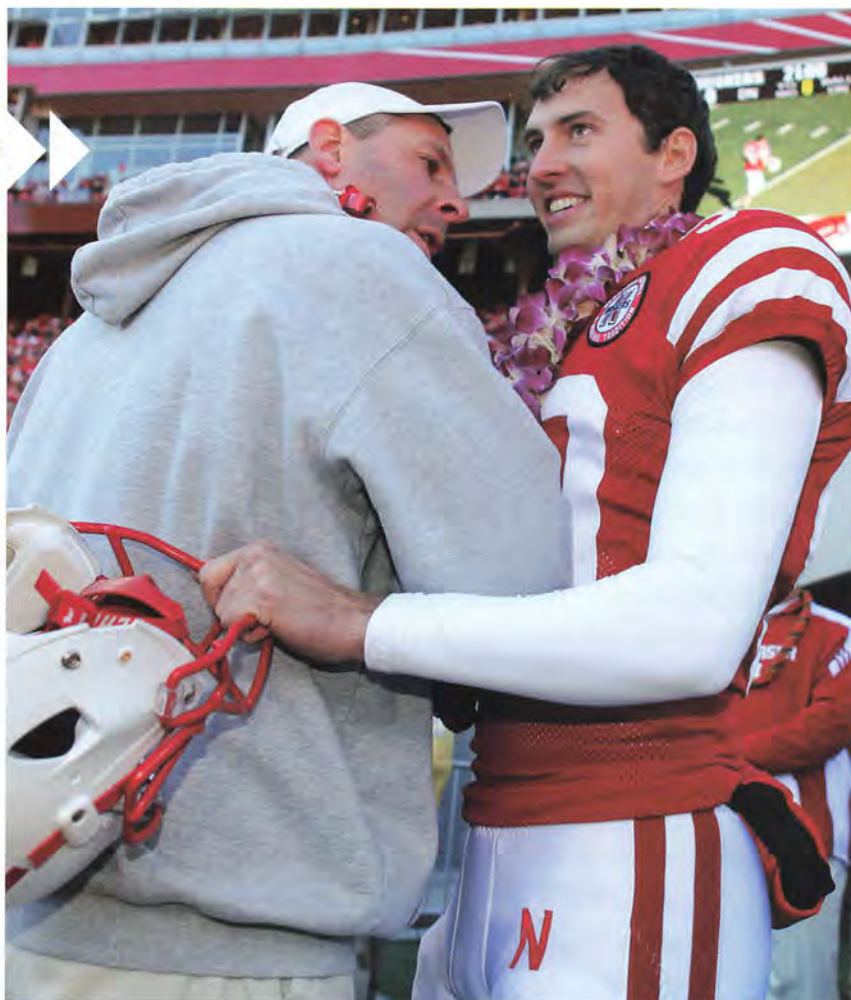


PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

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2010 SCHEDULE

9/4	W. KENTUCKY, W, 49-10
9/11	IDAHO, W, 38-17
9/18	at Washington, W, 56-21
9/25	SOUTH DAKOTA ST, W, 17-3
10/7	at Kansas State, W, 48-13
10/16	TEXAS, L, 13-20
10/23	at Oklahoma State, W, 51-41
10/30	MISSOURI, W, 31-17
11/6	at Iowa State, W, 31-30 (OT)
11/13	KANSAS, W, 20-3
11/20	at Texas A&M, L 9-6
11/26	COLORADO, W, 45-17
12/4	Big 12 Championship

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PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

Old Man, Sort of

D.J. JONES IS JEREMIAH SIRLES' ELDER, no question about that. Jones is a fifth-year senior in eligibility and a graduate student academically, while Sirles is a redshirted freshman.

"He calls me 'young 'un' a lot," said Sirles.

The two have been Nebraska's starting offensive tackles this season, Jones on the right, Sirles on the left. "He's an older guy, so he kind of has more leeway," Sirles said. "He picks on some of the younger kids, nothing mean or malicious...pokes fun at me, we poke fun at each other."

Jones is "a goofball; he's a funny guy. I like him a lot," said Sirles. "At the same time, when it's time to get serious, get down to business, he definitely has that switch that he can flip on."

Jones, who finally settled in at right tackle midway through last season and started the final three game because Marcel Jones was sidelined by an ankle injury, has also played left tackle as well as right and left guard. "Every time we turned around, 'You know what, let's try you at guard. OK, you know what, let's try you at the other guard. You know what, you move pretty well, let's move you to left tackle,'" offensive line coach Barney Cotton said. "We've seen a lot of improvement out of him at playing one spot and kind of locking him into that right tackle position."

He's been hesitant to pick up a ball, Jones said, jokingly. "Coach Cotton might put me at center."

NEBRASKA BIG XII CHAMPIONSHIP PACKAGES

DECEMBER 3-5

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PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK

CENTER OF ATTENTION

Note to those with All-Big 12 votes: Mike Caputo deserves consideration.

Offensive tackle Jeremiah Sirles offered an endorsement of the junior from Omaha, recently. Among the qualities that make him a good center is "his intelligence of the game," said Sirles.

"He sees things I don't see, and I'm in an up-stance. I feel like he has his head between his legs and he's still seeing it. His command of the field makes him incredibly reliable."

Though he's not big for an offensive lineman – he's listed at 6-foot-1 and 270 pounds – Caputo is "strong as an ox. He's just a tank," Sirles said. "He's just a powerful little fireball."

His knowledge of the game sets him apart, however.

That's essential for a center, said Sirles. "You have to be able to read safeties and everything like that, and him being able to do that is a big thing for all of us."

SIDELINES



END OF THE LINE(BACKER)

Sophomore Eric Martin, who started two games at linebacker early in the season, is adjusting to a recent position switch. He's getting a look at defensive end.

"It's a big transition going from a two-point stance to a three-point stance," said defensive coordinator Carl Pelini. "You don't know how it's going to work. He's a very powerful kid and will be a heck of a pass rusher. It's just how quickly he can learn to play 6-technique over a down tight end. That's a difficult thing to do. It's not easy for even an experienced defensive end."

"That'll be a key to his progression."



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MOMENT OF PAIN & FAME

Sophomore tight end Ben Cotton drew two personal foul penalties after recovering a Cody Green fumble in the first half of the Texas A&M game, for kicking at the Aggies' Tony Jerod-Eddie and then for taking off his helmet on the way to the sideline.

Video showed Jerod-Eddie grabbing at Cotton's crotch in the pile-up. The video found its way onto YouTube, of course. "It isn't the first way I thought my name would get out there," Cotton said.

"But what happens, happens. I'm just moving on."

Cotton didn't lose his sense of humor. Asked what had happened, he said of the indelicate situation that Jerod-Eddie was "just trying to find his way to the football."

Cotton took the high road, given Jerod-Eddie's actions.

I regret the whole thing," said Cotton. "I need to make sure I handle myself better. I lost my cool with my foot there, and I need to make sure I don't cost my team yards in penalties next time."

IT DOESN'T MATTER, (STATISTICALLY SPEAKING)

Nebraska's defense has been among the best in the nation this season, based on statistics. But Carl Pelini is a bottom-line defensive coordinator, so don't toss numbers at him. "I don't think any of them (statistics) mean anything except scoring defense, honestly," he said. "Everyone has asked me about run defense, pass defense and pass efficiency, all those things. They don't mean anything. It's scoring defense and keeping your opponent to (fewer) points than you score,

period, end of story."

Statistics can be misleading because "you give a little to get a little," said Pelini. "If you want to be great in coverage, sometimes you're going to give up a few yards in the run game. If you want to be stout against the run, you're going to give up something in the pass game.

"Ultimately, the total defense stuff is all that matters.

"All I know is that on a given Saturday I want to be the best defense on the field. We have to out-play our opponents defensively, and that's how we look at it."

Taking care of the ball

Nebraska has had fumble problems this season, no question about that. And coach Bo Pelini has no explanation as to why. The Huskers emphasize ball security in practice.

"We drill it," Pelini said. "You have to take it to the field. I thought we went a couple of weeks there where it really dramatically improved." Then the problems "kind of crept up" again.



"We just keep talking about it clean up."

and keep working it. Some of those fumbles have been exchange problems out of the gun and some in the read game that come with experience," he said.

"It's an area we have to continue to

THORPE AWARD FINALIST



Senior cornerback Prince Amukamara is among three finalists for the 2010 Jim Thorpe Award, presented to the nation's best collegiate defensive back. The other finalists are TCU's Tejay Johnson and LSU's Patrick Peterson. The winner will be announced on Dec. 9 at the ESPN College Football Awards Show in Orlando, Fla.

It comes down to tackling

Courtney Osborne started for the first time against Missouri. Early in the season, safety position.”

the sophomore from Garland, Texas, wasn’t even getting many reps in practice. But he was preparing himself mentality for when opportunity knocked. And opportunity did.

The key to his getting on the field was tackling, according to defensive coordinator Carl Pelini. “I don’t know if he’s a better player now than we was,” Pelini said. “He was always a good player. We had some experienced safeties back there who were playing well at practice and doing all the right things.”

But “we need to be better tacklers at the safety position.”

So Osborne and junior Austin Cassidy started. “They’ve proven that they’re good open-field tacklers, and that was what we were looking for when we made the change,” Pelini said.

Osborne, like Cassidy, finally earned a Blackshirt. “He didn’t magically transform himself,” said Pelini. “He’s always been a good player.”

As for that late hit on Texas A&M quarterback Ryan Tannehill, you be the judge.



ALFONZO DENNARD

PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK

AS GOOD AS CORNERS GET

How good are cornerbacks Prince Amukamara and Alfonzo Dennard? “They’re

the best cornerback combination I’ve been around,” said defensive coordinator Carl Pelini. With Amukamara and Dennard “we can use our safeties, our dime, our nickel and our backers in pressure to take away the corners help, double (cover) inside receivers,” Pelini said.

Such a duo “allows you a lot of freedom. We don’t leave them isolated all the time, but you know when you want to pressure, you can and you’re not afraid of doing that a lot of times,” he said. “When you’re in a season where you’re struggling at corner, it really limits what you can do defensively.”

With Amukamara and Dennard “we can use our safeties, our dime, our nickel and our backers in pressure to take away the corners help, double (cover) inside receivers,” Pelini said.

“You can just be really creative and know that they’re going to get the job done for you. I really like how those two play. I like how they prepare. And I like how they study film. They do their homework, and they know who they’re going against.”

SIDELINES

WHOSE TEAM IS IT, ANYWAY?

Remember after the Kansas game when quarterback Taylor Martinez said he was glad to be back after missing the Iowa State game because of an ankle injury so he could show that this was his team and nobody else’s? Coach Bo Pelini doesn’t, nor does he know what Martinez meant.

“I didn’t hear the comment,” said Pelini. “But that’s the type of attitude every guy should have. You hope that’s the attitude across the board on your football team.”



PUMP UP THE VOLUME

On his TV show, coach Bo Pelini expressed disappointment in the enthusiasm of the Memorial Stadium crowd for the Kansas game. He was asked about his remarks during his weekly teleconference on the Tuesday afterward. “It was just an observation,” he said. “I’m not talking about that anymore. It’s over and done with. There are going to be some fans that are always a little disgruntled.”

The remarks shouldn’t have caused “a disconnect with the fans,” he said.

Nebraska’s NCAA record of consecutive home sellouts, now 311, is evidence of the support the Cornhuskers enjoy. “They’re good fans,” Pelini said. “I don’t get disgruntled when people criticize me.”



N

Wauneta



TAYLOR DIXON has had a measure of fame at Nebraska, even though he has yet to play. The sophomore wide receiver from Wauneta was featured in the NET documentary Walk Ons: Huskers' Edge. Though he's not sure why he was chosen to be in it, the former Class D-1 eight-man

high school all-stater appreciates its message about the importance of walk-ons.

"It was good to just show everybody where Huskers have been coming from for years," he said.

Only three Husker football lettermen have come from Wauneta. Dixon didn't mean his hometown, specifically. Rather, he was referring to small towns across Nebraska, and those in the western part of the state in particular, "just trying to show it's not all big-city, high recruits," Dixon said.

That cameras were focused on Wauneta's main street "was exciting for everybody," he said. "I was proud to be part of that, or, like, be part of the reason why it happened."

The opportunity to walk on was sufficient for Dixon to turn down a scholarship offer from Chadron State, even though that might have afforded him a more certain path to dental school as well.

Dentistry has been his career goal since in high school.

But Dixon grew up a Husker fan, in a family of Husker fans.

"We didn't take vacations. We came to Husker games," he said.

And not just Husker football games. If there was a volleyball match, so much the better; he and his family could double-up. "I was for the university," said Dixon, whose sister Blair is a track athlete at Doane College in Crete, Neb., earning All-America honors in the 400 meters as a freshman.

"She puts me to shame," he said. "She's the best athlete in the family."

Even though he plays on the scout team, Dixon is living his dream. On one football "vacation," he had a picture taken with Ryan Terwilliger, a Husker from Grant, Neb.

"That was pretty awesome, made my day," Dixon said.

WAUNETA, NEB.

County: Chase

Population: 544

Distance from Lincoln: 250 miles

NU FOOTBALL LETTERMEN

Marvin Athey, HB (1941-42)

Brian Harchelroad, FB (1988)

Norris Nesmith, E (1931)

DID YOU KNOW?

► Dixon's high school played Husker teammate Lance Thorell's Loomis High team in the 2006 state playoffs. "We won," said Dixon. "But he was definitely the toughest guy we played that year."

► Wauneta, founded in 1887 on Frenchman Creek, was named after a popular Spanish love song Juanita, first published in 1855, but was spelled as it is to distinguish it from another Nebraska town, Juniata, located in Adams County.



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2010 Nebraska Football Schedule

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Sat, Sept. 4	Western Kentucky	Memorial Stadium	6:00 pm
Sat, Sept. 11	Idaho	Memorial Stadium	11:30 am
Sat, Sept. 18	at Washington	Husky Stadium	2:30 pm
Sat, Sept. 25	South Dakota State	Memorial Stadium	6:00 pm
Thur, Oct. 7	at Kansas State	Snyder Stadium	6:30 pm
Sat, Oct. 16	Texas	Memorial Stadium	2:30 pm
Sat, Oct. 23	at Oklahoma State	Pickens Stadium	2:30 pm
Sat, Oct. 30	Missouri	Memorial Stadium	2:30 pm
Sat, Nov. 6	at Iowa State	Trice Stadium	2:30 pm
Sat, Nov. 13	Kansas	Memorial Stadium	6:00 pm
Sat, Nov. 20	at Texas A&M	Kyle Field	7:00 pm
Fri, Nov. 26	Colorado	Memorial Stadium	2:30 pm
Sat, Dec. 4	Oklahoma	Arlington Texas	7:00 pm



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THEBIGTENBEAT

Bowling in the Big Ten

Big Ten looks to secure eight bowl bids, with Wisconsin, Ohio State eyeing BCS bowl trips | TERRY DOUGLASS



Heading into the stretch run of the college football season, it appeared that the Big Ten Conference would have eight bowl teams.

Leading the way were Wisconsin and Ohio State, who both had a chance to possibly secure BCS bowl bids. Assuming wins in their regular-season finales against Northwestern and Michigan, respectively, the Badgers were projected to earn a Rose Bowl bid, while the Buckeyes were expected to land in the Fiesta, Sugar or Orange.

Other Big Ten bowl projections: Capital One (Michigan State), Outback (Penn

State), Gator (Iowa), Insight (Michigan), Texas (Illinois) and TicketCity (Illinois). The Big Ten won't be able to fill its slot in the Little Caesars Pizza Bowl as Indiana, Minnesota and Purdue won't be bowl-eligible.

TITLE GAME TV

The Big Ten Conference reached a media agreement with FOX Sports to serve as the official broadcast partner of the Big Ten Football Championship Games from 2011-16. The inaugural Big Ten championship game will be played in prime time on Dec. 3, 2011, at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis.

COACHING CAROUSEL

Minnesota will have a new head coach next season when Nebraska enters the Big Ten Conference as **TIM BREWSTER** (left) as fired on Oct. 17 with an overall record of 15-30. Co-offensive coordinator Jeff Horton was named the interim coach and guided the Gophers to a 38-34 win at Illinois on Nov. 13, snapping a nine-game losing streak.

The status of Indiana's **BILL LYNCH** (middle) was also in question heading into last weekend's regular-season finale against Purdue. The fourth-year Hoosiers' head coach has one year remaining on a contract he signed in November 2007 after he led IU to its first bowl in 13 years but won just two of his next 23 Big Ten games after inking the deal.

The job security of Michigan coach **RICH RODRIGUEZ** (right) and Illinois coach Ron Zook have also been topics of discussion in Big Ten circles this season.



PATERNO MILESTONE

Already a college football legend, Penn State coach Joe Paterno added to his legacy by recording his 400th career victory on Nov. 13 as the Nittany Lions rallied past Northwestern 35-21. Paterno became the first NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision head coach to amass 400 victories. He is finishing his 45th season as Penn State's head coach.

NAMES TO KNOW

DENARD ROBINSON: The Big Ten leader in total offense, Robinson entered Michigan's regular-season finale, averaging 342.5 yards per game. The sophomore quarterback had 1,538 yards rushing and 2,229 yards passing.

RICKY STANZI: The Iowa senior quarterback entered last weekend as the Big Ten leader in passing efficiency (163.2 rating). He had thrown for 2,677 yards and 23 TDs and is a finalist for the Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Award.

TERRELLE PRYOR: A pre-season Heisman Trophy candidate, the Ohio State junior quarterback had thrown for 2,331 yards and 23 TDs through his first 11 games of 2011. Pryor was fourth in the Big Ten in total offense.

SCOTT TOLZIEN: In a conference featuring several high-profile quarterbacks, Tolzien joined Iowa's Ricky Stanzi as a Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Award finalist. The Wisconsin senior had 2,070 yards and 12 TDs passing through 11 games.

MIKEL LESHORE: The Big Ten's second-leading rusher through 11 games with 1,371 yards, trailing only Michigan's Denard Robinson. The junior running back from Illinois was averaging 5.9 yards per carry and had 13 rushing TDs.



STATE OF THE HUSKERS

BY CURT MCKEEVER

Is the Big 12 really out to get the Huskers?

IT'S TIME TO TOSS the football around one last time in the Big 12, a league that some Nebraskans wish the Huskers would have decided to leave a long time ago.

Of course, some of those feelings have been born from the fact that winning a conference championship became much harder for Nebraska. NU won the last five Big Eight titles, and in the first 14 years of the Big 12 managed two.

Then, there's those darn Texas Longhorns, who upset the Huskers to claim the first crown and ever since have been throwing their considerable weight around so the officials would run the league they way they wanted it run.

Or so that line of thinking goes.

In the Big 12 era, Nebraskans have seen their beloved Tom Osborne hang up his whistle, debated the controversial firing of Frank Solich, held the door open for Bill Callahan on his way out and for Bo Pelini on his way back in.

Pelini, revered for his work as defensive coordinator in 2003, has been the foreman to an amazing three-year repair job. But even the fiery Ohioan has occasionally let his competitive furnace get heated to the point that Osborne, now the athletic director, has had to ask him to turn down his thermostat.

In a way, that's how Nebraska's 15 years in the Big 12 have worked out.

When the Big Eight and four former Southwest Conference schools joined hands in 1995, the only objections were said under the breath – maybe because everyone knew it was just a marriage of convenience.

Not surprisingly, even in the early stages of the Big 12, the new partners struggled to find true trust and harmony.

"There were some rough edges going in. I was probably one of the rough edges myself," Texas A&M athletic director Bill Byrne told the Kansas City Star last summer not long before the Huskers announced they were leaving for the Big Ten.

Byrne was the AD at Nebraska when the Big Eight schools, together since 1960, integrated Texas, Texas A&M, Texas Tech and Baylor to begin Big 12 play in 1996. Byrne, Texas' DeLoss Dodds and Oklahoma's Joe Castiglione are the only current Big 12 ADs who were part of the merger.

"We got together, then we got to know each other," Castiglione, who was at Missouri when the league was formed, told the Star. "But trusting each other became difficult, as some decisions seemed to be made along party lines."

That attitude became evident even in the selection of a commissioner and site for the league office.

Steve Hatchell, the Southwest Conference commissioner, was chosen

over Kansas athletic director Bob Frederick. Dallas edged Kansas City by a 7-5 vote as home to the league headquarters.

Soon after, then-Kansas men's basketball coach Roy Williams offered that perhaps people should refer to the Big 12 as "Big Texas."

In 2004, Kansas football coach Mark Mangino drew a \$5,000 fine for suggesting money and a BCS berth were the reason officials gave the Longhorns a favorable call that helped them pull out a win against the Jayhawks.

In last year's Big 12 championship, officials put 1 second back on the game clock after quarterback Colt McCoy threw a pass out of bounds, allowing the Longhorns to kick a game-winning field goal. Never mind that the call was correct, for most Nebraskans, it was just one more example of how Texas was seen as the league's spoiled son.

It wasn't the last time those folks cried foul. This Nov. 20 at Texas A&M, the Huskers drew 16 penalties for 145 yards – both school records – in a 9-6 loss. A&M was penalized only twice. A third flag thrown on the Aggies that would have given Nebraska a first-and-goal situation in the fourth quarter was picked up.

It was enough to make rational people wonder if the Big 12 really was out to stick it to the Huskers on their exit? **N**

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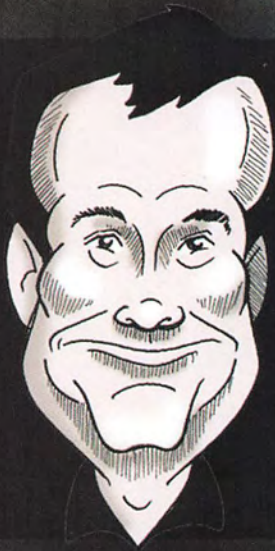
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FIVE QUESTIONS

Ron Kellogg III

Scout Team QB Called Up Following Injuries

NEBRASKA'S INJURY PROBLEMS AT

QUARTERBACK were enough of a concern that coaches promoted walk-on Ron Kellogg III from scout team the week before the Huskers played Kansas.

Even though he was No. 4 on the depth chart, the possibility existed he could play against his father's former school. Ron Kellogg, Jr., played basketball at Kansas from 1982-86 and earned all-conference honors.

"I thought about how it would really be cool to just beat a good Kansas team and

then rub it in my dad's face about it," Kellogg said, smiling. "He was really pumped about it, too. He thought it would be an interesting experience to see."

Kellogg said he has his father converted, too.

"Now, he's just a Kansas basketball fan," he said. "I've got him all Nebraska red for the football season. It's really fun."

Whenever his father has a chance to talk about his playing days at Kansas, Kellogg said he's the first one to hear the stories. He also played basketball at Omaha Westside, and

enjoys facing his father on the court.

"I like to challenge him in one-on-one basketball games from time to time, just so I am the dominant one in the basketball family," Kellogg said. "Every now and then, he managed to get outside the 3-point line and just drain 3-pointers, and then it's game over."

"But he's afraid of contact. Don't let him fool you that he likes contact because he's afraid of it. Especially with me because I like to be a bully in basketball games."

1

HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED What was your strength on the basketball court?

RON KELLOGG III I really worked on my mid-range jump shot. That's something my dad preached on. From time to time I'll hit 3-pointers, but the mid-range game is what I was pretty fluent at.

2

HI What's your favorite part about Allen Fieldhouse?

KELLOGG Probably the new museum part they've got built in there. After going to a bunch of Kansas games when I was growing up, that added feature is really cool.

3

HI Who's your favorite Jayhawk?

KELLOGG I'd make my dad happy if I said he was my favorite basketball player, but I'd have to say it's a toss-up between Kirk Hinrich and Paul Pierce. ▶

4

HI What will you miss most about the Big 12?

KELLOGG Probably playing against rivals like Missouri and Oklahoma, and the borderline game with Kansas.

5

HI Why did you choose a No. 12 jersey?

KELLOGG Joe Ganz. I watched him a little bit in high school. He likes to tease me now. He's probably my main reason, and how he broke all of the passing records, and I just want to follow in his footsteps.





by Terry Douglass

TURNING POINT



PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK

TREMENDOUS TURNOVERS

AFTER CREATING JUST one turnover in its previous two games, Nebraska's defense couldn't have selected a more opportune time to pick up the pace.

The Blackshirts produced three second-half takeaways against Colorado, all leading to short fields and touchdown drives. That allowed the Cornhuskers to extend a 17-3 lead to 31-3 in the first five minutes of the second half during a 45-17 victory over the Buffaloes at Memorial Stadium, clinching the Big 12 Conference's North Division title.

"I think it's just based on a tremendous effort and a keep-at-it kind of attitude," Nebraska secondary coach Marvin Sanders said of creating turnovers. "Because sometimes you can play hard and you don't get that turnover, but you know that sooner or later, if you keep playing at a high level, good things are going to happen."

Nebraska senior safety DeJon Gomes led the way. His interception and 12-yard return set up a short-field drive, capped by quarterback Cody Green's 16-yard TD pass to Brandon Kinnie, putting the Huskers ahead 24-3 with 11:58 left in the third quarter. Later, Gomes' 19-yard fumble return to the Colorado 3-yard line led to a 1-yard

scoring sneak by Green, closing the scoring with 12:55 to play.

Gomes couldn't pinpoint why Nebraska had so much success creating turnovers against the Buffaloes.

"Maybe this offense was more aggressive than the offenses have been in the past couple weeks," Gomes said. "We knew that (Colorado) would throw the ball up and we'd have our opportunities so we just had to make the most of them."

On Colorado's second third-quarter possession, Eric Hagg followed Gomes' interception with one of his own, returning it 26 yards to the Colorado 4. Hagg's team-leading fifth interception of the season set up I-back Rex Burkhead's 4-yard scoring pass to tight end Kyler Reed out of the wildcat formation, putting Nebraska ahead 31-3 with 10:53 left in the third period.

Gomes said the key to creating more turnovers was good preparation in practice.

"Just knowing their tendencies and knowing what they like to do," Gomes said. "But also, I think we were flying around and being more aggressive than we have been for most of the season." **N**

by Terry Douglass

PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK



PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK

SENIOR SALUTE

Nebraska honored 23 seniors who made their final appearance for the Cornhuskers at Memorial Stadium prior to their game against Colorado.

The list included DE Pierre Allen, CB Prince Amukamara, WR Joe Broekemeier, DE Tyrone Fahie, DB DeJon Gomes, LB Thomas Grove, IB Roy Helu Jr., PK/P Alex Henery, OG Ricky Henry, WR Will Henry, OT D.J. Jones, PK Adi Kunalic, QB Zac Lee, WR Mike McNeill, WR Niles Paul, OL Mike Smith, S Rickey Thenarse, QB Latravis Washington, DB Adam Watson, DB Anthony West, OG Keith Williams and TE Dreu Young.

Junior TE Ryan Hill and junior DL Faron Klingelhoefer, who won't return to the program, were also recognized with the seniors.

MEET JOE BROEKEMEIER

It would be nearly impossible to verify, but Nebraska's Joe Broekemeier may have set some sort of record against Colorado. Making his first career appearance, the senior wide receiver had three receptions for 34 yards while seeing his first action on the football field since his freshman year at Aurora High School in 2002.

"It was a long wait -- definitely," Broekemeier said. "It has been a long time."

After his freshman year in high school, injuries kept Broekemeier off the gridiron his sophomore and junior seasons. As a senior with plans to join the Nebraska baseball team, Broekemeier said he decided not to go out for football.

Broekemeier saw limited action on the diamond for the Huskers from

2007-09. In 2009, he was 1-0 with 5.69 ERA in 2009, but called it quits due to an arm injury and joined the Nebraska football team in the fall of 2009. He was originally a scout team quarterback before moving to wide receiver, but didn't get an opportunity to see the field until starting wide receiver Niles Paul missed the Colorado game with a foot injury.

"When you have a guy like Niles, it's kind of hard to crack the lineup and get in there," Pelini said. "His name went to the top of the list when Niles had the injury. Nothing that Joe does surprises me. He's a good football player."

GREEN DAY

With starting Nebraska quarterback Taylor Martinez again sidelined by injuries, Cody Green earned his fourth career start and performed well, according to offensive

PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN



SUH'S JERSEY RETIRED

Former Nebraska standout defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh returned to Memorial Stadium to become the 17th Cornhusker player to have his jersey retired during halftime of NU's 45-17 victory over Colorado at Memorial Stadium.

Suh was joined on the field by Tommie Frazier, Johnny Rodgers, Dominic Raiola, Aaron Taylor, Dean Steinkuhler, Zach Wiegert, Will Shields and Larry Jacobson – all former Huskers who have previously had their jersey numbers retired.

"This is, without a doubt, a true honor," Suh told the Memorial Stadium crowd of 85,646. "Being able to be on that wall with all these

great players that have come before me is truly a blessing. I can't thank you (fans) enough, but this has been a great time here at Nebraska – obviously on the field, but foremost off the field.

Suh, who was the No. 2 selection in last spring's NFL Draft by the Lions, is a top candidate for the NFL's rookie of the year award. Last year during his senior season at Nebraska, Suh was named the Associated Press college player of the year and also won the Outland Trophy, Lombardi Award, Bronko Nagurski Trophy, Chuck Bednarik Award and was a finalist for the Heisman Trophy.

coordinator Shawn Watson.

Green was an efficient 10-of-13 passing for 80 yards and two touchdowns. The sophomore also rushed seven times for 23 yards and a score as the Huskers played their fourth turnover-free contest of the season.

"He did a great job," Watson said. "We asked him to come in and manage. He was pretty high-percentage – made some pretty good pass decisions. I was really proud of his work."

Nebraska head coach Bo Pelini said Green played "a tremendous football game." However, Pelini said he was unsure who will start Saturday's Big 12 championship game.

"I don't know what next week holds right now," Pelini said. "We'll worry about that come the weekend."

HENERY TIES MARK

Nebraska place-kicker Alex Henery scored nine points against Colorado – a 42-yard field goal and six point-after kicks – to give him 388 career points, tying fellow kicker Kris Brown atop the program's all-time charts.

Typical of the soft-spoken Henery, he seemed generally unimpressed.

"It doesn't feel any different, but it's just kind of cool to know that I was able to be up there with some of those great guys," said Henery, who is 16 of 17 on field-goal attempts and has made all 51 of his PAT kicks.

However, Henery said several of his teammates were excited for him.

"They all wanted to kick (a field goal) there late in the game, but it wasn't the right thing to do right there," Henery said.

TITLE TALK

With its win over Colorado, Nebraska clinched the Big 12 Conference North Division title for the sixth time overall and the second consecutive year. Last season, the Huskers suffered a controversial 13-12 loss to Texas, but are hoping to make amends this time around at Dallas Cowboys Stadium in Arlington, Texas.

"I think that's what you shoot for every year," Nebraska safety DeJon Gomes said. "Especially being that close, like it was last year, it has been on your mind for a whole year and we can focus on that game and just going out there and playing. Hopefully, we can come back with a win."

Shortly after beating the Buffs, Nebraska head coach Bo Pelini wasn't quite ready to go into detail about the prospects of his team winning a conference title in its final season as a member of the Big 12.

"I like our chances," Pelini said. "I think we can win any game. I have a lot of confidence in this football team and these kids. Enough said on that."

WORTH NOTING

► The victory over Colorado gave Nebraska its first 10-win regular season since 2001. The Huskers now have 25 10-win seasons, including two straight under coach Bo Pelini.

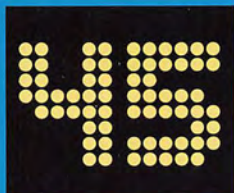
► In 120 Big 12 Conference regular-season games, Nebraska was 81-39 in the league's 15-year history. That included a 46-14 record at Memorial Stadium.

► The entire senior class served as Nebraska's game captains against Colorado. Defensive back Prince Amukamara, defensive end Pierre Allen, place-kicker/punter Alex Henery and guard Keith Williams took the field for the coin toss.



HUSKER CELEBRATE WHILE WATCHING A TRIBUTE ON THE MEMORIAL STADIUM VIDEO BOARDS. PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK

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NEBRASKA



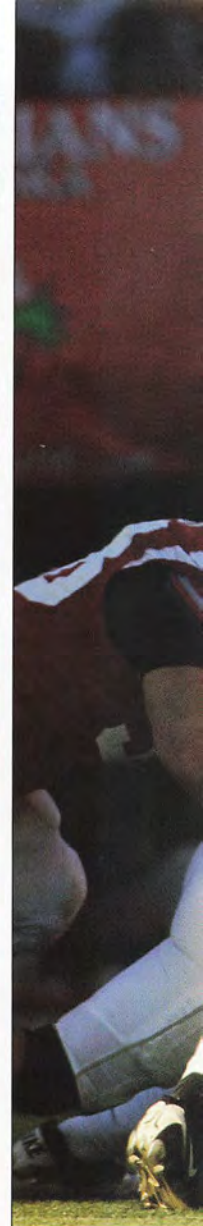
COLORADO



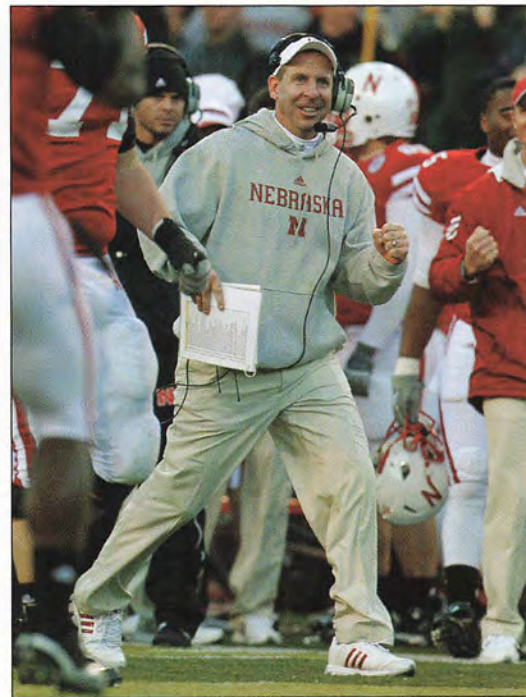
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CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: 1) Senior Joe Broekemeier takes a hit after catching one of his three passes. *Photo by Aaron Babcock.* 2) Quarterback Cody Green tries to elude Colorado defenders. *Photo by Aaron Babcock.* 3) Bo Pelini celebrates after a play. *Photo by Scott Bruhn.* 4) Husker players enjoy a tribute video on the Memorial Stadium video boards. *Photo by Aaron Babcock.* 5) Brandon Kinnie pulls in one of his two touchdown catches. *Photo by Randy Hampton.*





PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

JOE BROEKEMEIER

How's this for a senior day? Joe Broekemeier saw his first action as a Husker football player in his final game at Memorial Stadium. In fact, the last time the walk-on wide receiver from Aurora, Neb., played in a football game was in November of 2002, when he was a high school freshman, and a quarterback. Broekemeier gave up football because of injuries in order to focus on baseball, the sport for which Nebraska recruited him. An arm injury ended his Husker

baseball career, however, and he persuaded the football coaches to allow him to walk on, beginning as a quarterback and then moving to wide receiver. He spent much of the season on the scout team. Oh yes, Broekemeier didn't just get in the Colorado game; he caught three passes for 34 yards, no doubt causing some fans who were too far from the field to read his name on the back of his jersey to check their game programs to see who the Husker in No. 9 on offense was.

Husker Report Card

RUSHING

No Taylor Martinez? No problem. The Huskers got by with some Cody Green under center (as well as in the shotgun) and some Rex Burkhead in the Wildcat. The tandem of Burkhead and Roy Helu, Jr. was too much for the Buffaloes to handle.

A

PASSING

Cody Green was extremely efficient, and how about Rex Burkhead, the I-back? He threw two passes, both for touchdowns, the second on a running play that broke down. Twice Colorado was flagged for pass interference in the end zone. And twice the Husker receiver held onto the pass anyway.

A

RUSHING DEFENSE

Give Rodney Stewart some credit. The 5-foot-6, 175-pound junior ran tough, and often, behind the Buffs' big offensive line. He had all 14 of his team's carries in the first half and 20 of 23 for the game.

A

PASSING DEFENSE

Colorado quarterback Cody Hawkins' only completion, in eight attempts, during the first half came on a bit of throwback trickery. And two of his first three passes in the second half were intercepted. By the time he completed his second pass, the score was 31-3. Enough said.

A

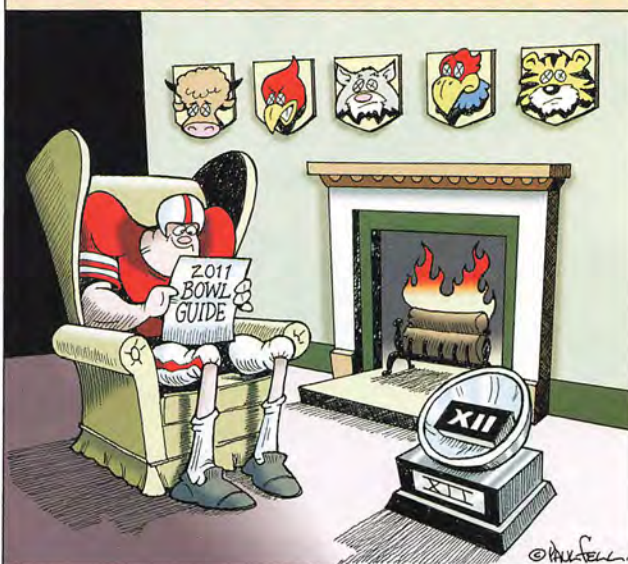
KICKING/SPECIAL TEAMS

Alex Henery had to kick a field goal against the Buffs at Memorial Stadium, just for old times. Tim Marlowe turned in a 28-yard kickoff return for the Huskers, who held their own in the kicking game.

A

THE PAUL FELL PREDICTION

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HUSKERS BRING HOME ANOTHER TROPHY FOR THE COLLECTION AND START PLANNING FOR THEIR NEXT BOWL TRIP!



QUICK PICKS



Aaron Babcock

(Season, Last Week)



Mike Babcock

(70-26, 6-2)



Terry Douglass

(68-28, 6-2)



Kevin Kugler

(71-25, 8-0)



Sean Callahan

(67-29, 7-1)



Matt Davison

(71-25, 6-2)

Nebraska vs. Oklahoma	NU 24-23	NU 17-14	NU 17-14	NU 21-20	OU 37-27	NU 24-17
Auburn vs. South Carolina	AUB 24-10	AUB 28-17	AUB 37-14	USC 21-13	AUB 41-27	AUB 35-10
Northern Illinois vs. Miami (OH)	UNI 36-20	MIAMI 31-28	UNI 40-21	UNI 42-21	UNI 27-24	UNI 20-17
Arizona State at Arizona	AZ 24-3	AZ 38-15	AZ 27-24	AZ 35-21	AZ 38-34	AZ 27-20
Oregon at Oregon State	ORE 51-14	ORE 49-28	ORE 69-21	ORE 55-28	ORE 51-33	ORE 45-21
USC at UCLA	USC 31-21	USC 21-20	USC 20-13	USC 42-17	USC 34-20	USC 20-17
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati	PITT 20-7	PITT 24-21	PITT 13-10	PITT 28-21	PITT 27-13	PITT 14-7
Washington at Washington State	UW 24-6	UW 34-24	UW 35-30	UW 35-31	UW 37-29	UW 30-10

SUMMARY

SCORING

Nov. 27, 2010
Memorial Stadium • Lincoln, Neb.
Attendance: 85,646

	1	2	3	4	F
COLORADO	0	3	14	0	17
NEBRASKA	3	14	21	7	45

	CU	NU
First Quarter		
NU 5:13 - Alex Henery 42 yd Field Goal	0	3
9 plays, 43 yards, 4:09		
Second Quarter		
NU 13:47 - Rex Burkhead 2 yd Run	0	10
9 plays, 72 yards, 4:52		
CU 10:22 - Aric Goodman 22 yd Field Goal	3	10
9 plays, 75 yards, 3:25		
NU 0:49 - Brandon Kinnie 26 yd Reception from Burkhead - 8 plays, 51 yards, 2:53	3	17
Third Quarter		
NU 11:58 - Brandon Kinnie 16 yd Reception from Green - 5 plays, 43 yards, 2:06	3	24
NU 10:53 - Tyler Reed 4 yd Reception from Burkhead - 1 play, 4 yards, 0:09	3	31
CU 8:19 - Paul Richardson 50 yd Reception from Hawkins - 5 plays, 80 yards, 2:34	10	31
NU 3:38 - Tyler Reed 1 yd Reception from Green - 9 plays, 46 yards, 4:41	10	38
CU 0:00 - Will Jefferson 29 yd Reception from Hawkins - 9 plays, 79 yards, 3:33	17	38
Fourth Quarter		
NU 12:55 - Cody Green 1 yard Run	17	45
2 plays, 3 yards, 0:21		

TEAM STATS

	CU	NU
Total First Downs	12	24
Rushing	4	14
Passing	5	9
Penalty	3	1
Rushing Attempts	23	59
Yards Gained Rushing	105	276
Yards Lost Rushing	6	11
Net Yards Rushing	99	265
Net Yards Passing	163	142
Passes Attempted	27	19
Passes Completed	10	15
Had Intercepted	2	0
Percent Completion	37.0%	78.9%
Yards per Attempt	6.0	7.5
Yards per Completion	16.3	9.5
Total Offensive Plays	50	78
Total Net Yards	262	407
Avg. Gain Per Play	5.2	5.2
Fumbles: No-Lost	1-1	2-0
Penalties: No-Yards	6-55	8-79
Punts: No-Yards	5-205	4-152
Avg. Per Punt	41.0	38.0
Avg. Net Punt	41.0	35.2
Punt Returns: No-Yards	1-11	1-0
Kickoff Returns: No-Yards	5-97	3-52
Interception Returns: No-Yards	0-0	2-38
Fumble Returns: No-Yards	0-0	1-19
Miscellaneous Yards	0	0
Possession Time	20:30	39:30
Third-Down Conversions	2-10	11-17
Percentage	20.0%	64.7%
Fourth-Down Conversions	0-0	1-1
Percentage	0%	100%
Sacks By: No-Yards	3-23	2-10

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

NEBRASKA

RUSHING	NO	GAIN	LOST	NET	AVG	TD	LG
Burkhead	19	102	1	101	5.3	1	15
Helu Jr.	15	78	1	77	5.1	0	21
Robinson	13	55	0	55	4.2	0	7
Green	7	32	9	23	3.3	1	11
Jones	4	8	0	8	2.0	0	3
Marlowe	1	1	0	1	1.0	0	1
TOTAL	59	276	11	265	4.5	2	21

PASSING	ATT	COMP	%	INT	YDS	TD	LG
Green	13	10	76.9	0	80	2	18
Lee	4	3	75.0	0	32	0	17
Burkhead	2	2	100.0	0	30	2	26
TOTAL	19	15	78.9	0	142	4	26

RECEIVING	NO	YDS	TD	LG
Kinnie	4	48	2	26
Reed	4	17	2	7
Broekemeier	3	34	0	17
McNeill	1	18	0	18
Long	1	17	0	17
Robinson	1	8	0	8
Burkhead	1	0	0	0
TOTAL	15	142	4	26

PUNT RETURNS	NO	YDS	TD	LG
Marlowe	1	0	0	0

KICK RETURNS	NO	YDS	TD	LG
Marlowe	2	37	0	27
Kinnie	1	15	0	15

INT RETURNS	NO	YDS	TD	LG
Hagg	1	26	0	26
Gomes	1	12	0	12
TOTAL	2	38	0	26

PUNTING	NO	AVG	LG	50+	IN20
Henery	4	38.0	48	0	3

FIELD GOALS	MADE	ATT	LG	BLKD
Henery	1	1	42	0

KICKOFFS	NO	AVG	TB	OB
Kunalic	8	66.1	3	0

DEFENSE	UT	AT	TT	TFL	SAC	BU	FF	FR
David	4	4	8	--	--	2	--	--
Compton	1	6	7	--	--	--	--	--
Gomes	4	1	5	--	--	--	--	1
Dennard	3	1	4	--	--	--	1	--
Allen	0	4	4	--	--	--	--	--
Hagg	3	0	3	--	--	--	--	--
Osborne	0	3	3	--	--	--	--	--
Cassidy	1	1	2	--	--	--	--	--
Amukamara	0	2	2	--	--	2	--	--
Stoddard	0	2	2	--	--	--	--	--
Steinkuler	0	2	2	--	--	--	--	--
Martin	1	0	1	--	--	--	--	--
Moravec	1	0	1	--	--	--	--	--
Crick	0	1	1	--	--	1	--	--
Thorell	0	1	1	--	--	--	--	--
Williams	0	1	1	--	--	1	--	--
Blatchford	0	1	1	--	--	--	--	--
Meredith	0	1	1	--	--	--	--	--
Smith	0	1	1	--	--	--	--	--

COLORADO

RUSHING	NO	GAIN	LOST	NET	AVG	TD	LG
Stewart	20	94	6	88	4.4	0	24
Jefferson	3	11	0	11	3.7	0	6
TOTAL	23	105	6	99	4.3	0	24

PASSING	ATT	COMP	%	INT	YDS	TD	LG
Hawkins	26	10	38.5	2	163	2	50
McKnight	1	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	27	10	37.0	2	163	2	50

RECEIVING	NO	YDS	TD	LG
McKnight	3	10	0	6
Richardson	2	62	1	50
Walters	2	43	0	25
Stewart	2	19	0	17
Jefferson	1	29	1	29
TOTAL	10	163	2	50

PUNT RETURNS	NO	YDS	TD	LG
Clemons	1	11	0	11

KICK RETURNS	NO	YDS	TD	LG
Jefferson	3	62	0	23
Jaffee	2	35	0	23
TOTAL	5	97	0	23

PUNTING	NO	AVG	LG	50+	IN20
Grossnickle	5	41.0	45	0	1

FIELD GOALS	MADE	ATT	LG	BLKD
Goodman	1	1	22	0

KICKOFFS	NO	AVG	TB	OB
Goodman	3	59.0	0	0

DEFENSE	UT	AT	TT	TFL	SAC	BU	FF	FR
Smith	11	6	17	--	--	1	--	--
Nobriga	7	7	14	1-0	--	--	--	--
Sandersfeld	4	4	8	--	--	--	--	--
Sipili	4	3	7	--	--	--	--	--
Smith	3	2	5	1-1	--	--	--	--
Polk	3	2	5	--	--	--	--	--
Brown	2	3	5	--	--	--	--	--
West	3	0	3	1-8	1.0-8	--	--	--
Cunningham	3	0	3	1-1	--	--	--	--
Vigo	2	1	3	--	--	--	--	--
Pericak	1	1	2	--	--	--	--	--
Hartigan	1	1	2	--	--	--	--	--
Miller	1	1	2	--	--	--	--	--
Ham	1	1	2	--	--	--	--	--
Uzo-Diribe	1	0	1	--	--	--	--	--
Goodman	1	0	1	--	--	--	--	--
Hawkins	1	0	1	--	--	--	--	--
McKnight	0	1	1	--	--	--	--	--
Webb	0	1	1	--	--	--	--	--
Hawkins	0	1	1	--	--	--	--	--
Clemons	0	1	1	--	--	--	--	--
Bell	0	1	1	--	--	--	--	--
Kasa	0	1	1	--	--	--	--	--
Beatty	0	1	1	--	--	--	--	--
Ahles	0	1	1	--	--	--	--	--
Rippy	0	1	1	--	--	--	--	--
Mahnke	0	1	1	--	--	--	--	--



Oklahoma Sooners

Huskers' affiliation in Big 12 ends as it should...in championship game against the Sooners | JERRY TRICKIE

Oklahoma rolled off six consecutive wins to open the season, including dismantling Florida State, 47-17, but slipped twice

since mid-October with road losses at Missouri by nine and at Texas A&M by 14. The Sooners are one of the most balanced

teams in the league, ranking in the top 30 nationally for total offense (13th) and total defense (29th).



Sophomore quarterback Landry Jones has excelled within the Sooner offense, helping it rank fourth nationally in passing (324.6 ypg) and 16th in scoring (36.64 ppg). By completing 66.9 percent of his pass attempts (311 of 465), Jones has passed for 3,479 passing yards with 30 touchdowns against just seven interceptions.



HEAD COACH

Resume: In his 12th season on the Oklahoma sideline, Bob Stoops owns a 126-31 coaching record with the Sooners. He has taken OU to the Big 12 title game seven times, where he owns a 6-1 record, and has gotten Oklahoma to eight January bowl games.

KNOW YOUR FOE



Ryan Broyles, Jr., WR: Among the top receivers in college football, Broyles ranks first nationally in receptions per game and third in receiving yardage.



DeMarco Murray, Sr., RB: Murray's rushing numbers are down, but he is still dangerous, ranking seventh nationally in scoring and 14th in all-purpose yards.



Jeremy Beal, Sr., DE: Beal leads the conference in tackles for loss (17.0) and sacks (9.0), as his averages rank 11th and 16th nationally.

2010 SCHEDULE

9/4	Utah State, W, 31-24
9/11	Florida State, W, 47-17
9/18	Air Force, W, 27-24
9/25	at Cincinnati, W, 31-29
10/2	vs. Texas (at Dallas), W, 28-20
10/16	Iowa State, W, 52-0
10/23	at Missouri, L, 27-36
10/30	Colorado, W, 43-10
11/6	at Texas A&M, L, 19-33
11/13	Texas Tech, W, 45-7
11/20	at Baylor, W, 53-24
11/27	at Oklahoma State, W, 47-41
12/4	at Big 12 Championship

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- Admission to the official Husker Huddle and other pre-game events

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CATCHING UP WITH

Randy Garcia

LAPD LIEUTENANT RETURNS TO LINCOLN AS AN INTRIGUED FAN

A STAR IN TWO important Nebraska football wins in 1977 came back with his family to watch the Huskers beat Kansas, and it was difficult to tell who was more impressed – Randy Garcia, the 55-year-old Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) lieutenant or Jacob “Jake” Garcia, his 9-year-old son.

Father and son toured everything related to Nebraska football, attended practice and camped out at the hotel they were staying, so Jake could meet players and coaches, snap memorable pictures and secure valuable autographs.

Still physically fit, Garcia, the Los Angeles City Player of the Year in 1972, looks like he could drop back and drill

some spirals into a sure-handed Mike McNeill or a streaking Niles Paul.

After backing up All-America quarterback Vince Ferragamo in 1976, Garcia was tackled in the end zone for a fourth-quarter safety in Nebraska’s 19-10 season-opening loss to Washington State in ’77.

“You know how Nebraska fans liked to throw oranges onto the field in those days?” Garcia asked. “Well, if they would have had any in their hands on that particular day, I’m sure they would have pelted me.”

But there’s nothing like exorcizing the demons from one game and working your way back into the hearts of

Nebraska coaches, players and fans a week later.

Yes, Garcia came back as a pivotal player in one of Tom Osborne’s most-celebrated wins in 25 years as head coach. In front of a nationwide television audience, the Huskers pulled out every trick in the book to hand Bear Bryant, ‘Bama’s legendary coach, his only loss that season, 31-24.

Garcia completed 7-of-11 passes for 123 yards and a touchdown to I-back Rick Berns. He also hooked up with I.M. Hipp for 53 yards to set up another touchdown by Berns. The loss would cost the Tide a national championship and force them to settle for a No. 2 finish in both final polls.

After losing his starting job to Tom Sorley later that year, Garcia came back for an important curtain call in a 21-17 win over North Carolina in the Liberty Bowl. NU Offensive Line Coach Milt Tenopir said Osborne’s halftime speech during that game was perhaps the most impassioned one of his career.

Osborne, near tears and with a raised voice, told that 9-3 Husker team how much he appreciated their unwillingness to let down, even when things didn’t go their way.

And sure enough, trailing 17-7 in the fourth quarter, Garcia came off the bench to throw two touchdown passes – a 10-yarder to Curtis Craig with 10:51 left and a 34-yarder to Tim Smith with 3:16 remaining.

The touchdowns came against a once-beaten North Carolina team that led the nation in scoring defense and had never given up more than 14 points in any game all season.

“I didn’t know that,” Garcia said. “I guess I was just happy that no one wanted to throw an orange at me.”

by Randy York

IN THE Red Zone

KEYUO CRAVER



Nebraska's roster this season includes 25 players from Texas, with 13 of them making the final regular-season road trip to Texas A&M. Now that the Cornhuskers won't be playing regularly in Texas, with their move to the Big Ten, will it be more difficult to recruit in the Lone Star State?

"No, I don't think so," said coach Bo Pelini. "I don't know."

"Time will tell on that, but we've had a good reception down in Texas. You hope to continue the relationships you've had. You have to ask me that a couple of years down the road here because there are a lot of unknowns as to how the move will affect you in a number of ways."

Even before the formation of the Big 12 Conference, Nebraska got recruiting exposure in Texas, playing rival Oklahoma in particular.

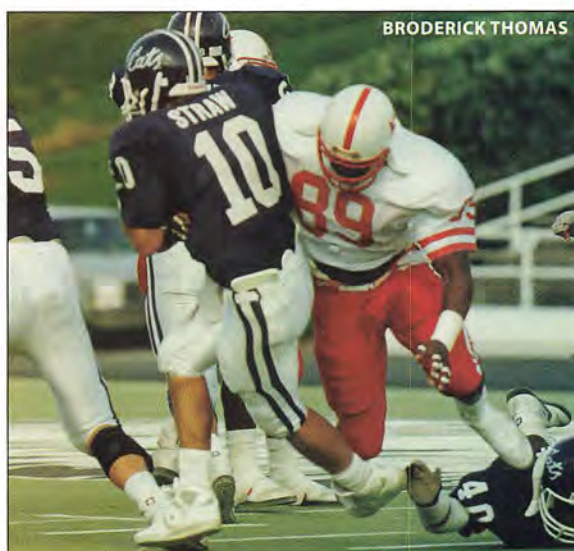
However, competing in the Big 12, one of the selling points for recruits was the opportunity to play games in their home state. Even though that changes, "most of the time families now travel," said Pelini. "It's not that hard to get to Lincoln and to come to games here (Lincoln)."

"Bottom line, you see Big Ten teams recruiting well in the state of Texas. It's not like we would be down there alone. There's a lot of talent down there, a lot of people. So there's more to choose from, obviously, when you're talking about a population base like you're dealing with in Texas."

LONE STAR STATE HUSKER ALL-AMERICANS

More Cornhusker All-Americans have come from Texas than from any state except Nebraska. Ten Texans have earned first-team All-America recognition, all since 1978, with three earning it twice.

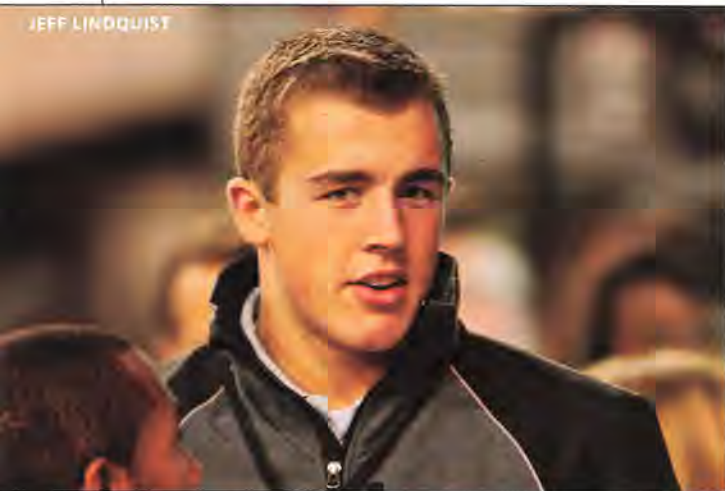
Kelvin Clark, OT	Denton	1978
Keyuo Craver, DB	Harleton	2001
Doug Glaser, OT	Balch Springs	1989
Aaron Graham, C	Denton	1995
Travis Hill, OSLB	Pearland	1992
Junior Miller, TE	Midland	1979
Aaron Taylor, C-OG	Wichita Falls	1996-97
Broderick Thomas, OSLB	Houston	1987-88
Kenny Walker, DT	Crane	1990
Jake Young, C	Midland	1988-89



ONE LAST LINEBACKER?

Huskers continue to finalize last few offers. Could another linebacker be in the plans? | SEAN STEVENS

JEFF LINDQUIST



Linebacker is a position that Nebraska is searching for one additional player in its 2011 recruiting class. Antonio Poole (6-2, 210) of Cincinnati, Ohio, is one top target.

Although Poole doesn't have a Nebraska offer yet, he was scheduled to make his first official visit to Lincoln for the Colorado game.

Poole is one of three primary linebacker targets for Nebraska, joining Keith Lewis (6-2, 216) of Tampa, Fla., and Keon Virgile (6-2, 225) of North Miami Beach, Fla. Lewis will visit North Carolina and Ole Miss for sure and is considering a trip to Lincoln. Virgile is waiting for his senior year to be completed before taking any trips, but has said that he will visit Nebraska before making a choice.

Peat schedules visits

Nebraska was scheduled to host defensive tackle Todd Peat, Jr. (6-3, 300) of Tempe, Ariz., during the Colorado game. Peat has seen Arizona State and will take a trip to Oregon State Dec. 3. Rivals' No. 13-ranked defensive tackle nationally, Peat also plans to visit Miami and either Stanford or Wake Forest.

Future in Encino?

Encino, Calif., wideout Devin Lucien (6-1, 190) is one of the fastest rising prospects on the West Coast. Lucien does not yet have a Nebraska offer but does hold tenders from Arizona State, Michigan and UCLA. If he visits Nebraska, which is a possibility, an offer may be forthcoming.

Unofficial visitor

2012 quarterback Jeff Lindquist (6-3, 225) of Mercer Island, Wash., visited Lincoln unofficially for the Kansas game. Lindquist also saw Nebraska play in person in Seattle during the Huskers' win over Washington.

"I was an unofficial visitor for that game. I definitely saw the power of Nebraska's offense and defense, and there were a lot of Nebraska fans there. It surprised me," Lindquist said.

Lyons to visit

Wayne Lyons (6-0, 190) will be visiting Dec. 10. Lyons, Rivals.com's No. 9-ranked safety prospect, has already visited Notre Dame, UCLA and Stanford and will also take a trip to Michigan Dec. 3.

Price in the picture?

At offensive tackle, Nebraska remains in good position with Houston, Texas, prospect Givens Mordi-Price (6-4, 278). Price remains committed to Rice, but word is that if Nebraska pushes hard he will switch his pledge.

COMMIT Q&A



MAX PIRMAN
At a glance: This week Huskers Illustrated caught up with one of Nebraska's newest commitments in Orrville (Ohio) defensive end Max Pirman in our weekly spotlight.

SEAN CALLAHAN: How hard was it to switch your commitment from Indiana to Nebraska?

PIRMAN: When I went out there I really wasn't expecting to look at another school to change my mind. It just did and it just happened. It was one of those gut feelings where I knew that was the place for me. It was definitely the hardest decision I have ever had to make. The distance is huge, but it's worth it to go play for Coach (Bo) Pelini and his coaching staff.

CALLAHAN: What's the town of Orrville, Ohio, like?

PIRMAN: It's got 8,500 people in it. It's a really small town. Everybody in the town gets into the games. Right now we are in the state semifinals and I'm sure the whole town will shut down to watch us play this week. The only thing we have in Orrville is really a bowling alley and that's it. There's really not much to do at all.

CALLAHAN: What's your favorite store to shop at or visit at the mall?

PIRMAN: I would probably say FootLocker, but I'm not a big mall guy.

CALLAHAN: What's your favorite restaurant to eat at?

PIRMAN: I love Chinese food anywhere. It doesn't matter where. I like it all. My favorite would probably be General's Chicken though.

CALLAHAN: During your time in high school, what is the hardest class you've taken?

PIRMAN: Pre-calculus was definitely the hardest class I've taken. I came out with a B+/A-. It was tough. It was a college prep course. It's even harder than calculus.

2011 Husker Commit List (17)

- ★★★ **TAARIQ ALLEN**, WR, 6-3, 191, Weston, Mass. (Rivers)
- ★★ **AARYN BOUZOS**, DB, 5-11, 185, La Mirada, Calif. (La Mirada)
- ★★★ **DANIEL DAVIE**, DB, 6-0, 181, Beatrice, Neb.
- ★★★★ **AARON GREEN**, RB, 5-11, 191, San Antonio, Texas (James Madison)
- ★★★★ **CHARLES JACKSON**, CB, 5-11, 180, Klein, Texas (Klein Collins)
- ★★★★ **RYAN KLACHKO**, OL, 6-4, 287, Springfield, Ill. (Sacred Heart Griffin)
- ★★★★ **TEVIN MITCHEL**, DB, 6-0, 175, Mansfield, Texas (Legacy)
- ★★★★ **TYLER MOORE**, OL, 6-6, 290, Clearwater, Fla. (Countryside)
- ★★★ **MAX PIRMAN**, LB, 6-5, 218, Orville, Ohio (Orville)
- ★★★★ **RYNE REEVES**, OL, 6-3, 300, Crete, Neb. (Crete)
- ★★ **NIKLAS SADE**, K, 6-3, 190, Raleigh, NC (Wakefield)
- ★★★ **DAVID SANTOS**, LB, 6-0, 193, Klein, Texas (Klein Collins)
- ★★★★ **DAIMION STAFFORD**, DB, 6-1, 210, Rancho Cucamonga, Calif. (Chaffey CC)
- ★★★★ **BUBBA STARLING**, QB, 6-4, 193, Gardner, Kan. (Gardner Edgerton)
- ★★★★ **ZACH STERUP**, OL, 6-8, 260, Hastings, Neb. (St. Cecilia)
- ★★★★ **JAMAL TURNER**, QB, 6-1, 173, Arlington, Texas (Sam Houston)
- ★★★ **KEVIN WILLIAMS**, DT, 6-2, 275, Holland, Ohio (Springfield)

2011 Unofficial Offer List

- | | |
|--|--|
| Jonathan Aiken
CB, 5-11, 185
Hollywood, Fla. | Lake Koa-Kaia
DE, 6-4, 250
Honolulu, Hawaii |
| Darien Bryant
TE, 6-4, 215
Pickerington, Ohio | Keith Lewis
LB, 6-0, 194
Lakeland, Fla. |
| Ray Drew
DE, 6-5, 243
Thomasville, Ga. | Wayne Lyons
Safety, 6-0, 190
Ft. Lauderdale, FL. |
| Curt Evans
WR, 6-0, 173
Hollywood, Fla. | *Dexter Moody
LB, 6-2, 210
Fort Scott (Kan.) CC |
| Christian French
Athlete, 6-6, 218
Cedar Rapids, IA | Givens Mordi Price
OL, 6-4, 278
Houston, Texas |
| Quentin Griffin
DE, 6-3, 230
Rayville, La. | *Malcolm Moulton
WR, 5-11, 185
Fort Scott (Kan.) CC |
| Jalen Grimbale
DE, 6-4, 255
Las Vegas, Nev. | Patrick Onwuasor
WR, 6-2, 190
Inglewood, Calif. |
| Todd Handley
RB, 5-8, 165
Riverside, Calif. | Todd Peat, Jr.
DT, 6-3, 300
Tempe, Ariz. |
| Christian Heyward
DT, 6-2, 269
San Diego, Calif. | Miles Shuler
WR, 5-11, 173
Long Branch, NJ |
| Cyrus Hobbi
OL, 6-4, 285
Scottsdale, Ariz. | Joel Willis
Athlete, 5-10, 180
Garden Grove, CA |
| Charles Jackson
CB, 5-11, 180
Klein, Texas | DeVante Wilson
DE, 6-4, 230
Corona, Calif. |
| Mickey Johnson
DT, 6-1, 310
Covington, La. | <i>* Junior College prospect</i> |

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DEEP IN THE HEART OF TEXAS

BY JOHN TALMAN
RECRUITING PUBLISHER,
HUSKERSILLUSTRATED.COM

Pelini's actions have little effect on recruits

IT REALLY HAS BEEN beaten to death, but I'm sure for the next month or two people will continue to talk about Nebraska's game in College Station against Texas A&M.

Yes, I was there. I spoke with Aggie fans before and after the game, was on the field right around the area of the infamous Carl Pelini camera incident (no, I didn't see it as it happened) and I was in the pressbox watching all four quarters of the Huskers play and every flag thrown.

As you can probably guess, the biggest question to me as the recruiting publisher was of course, what kind of effect did this game have on recruiting?

No, of course, people weren't asking about a loss but more the sideline actions of head coach Bo Pelini, specifically with the players and the referees.

So here goes, my take on how much "effect" it will have on recruiting in the 2011 class: Not a whole lot, actually.

For starters, many of the commits likely didn't even see the game live to have an instant opinion.

Though Nebraska fans believe every Husker commit sits down anxiously and watches each game the Big Red plays with the same anticipation they do, it's not reality.

Saturday night usually means high school students, football players or

otherwise have things they want to do. As an example, 4-star cornerback Charles Jackson said he didn't even see the game and wasn't planning to watch it until three days later after his father recorded it. He got the details from his dad – the flags, the mistakes, etc.

It didn't change his opinion on where he'd be playing college football. He committed to Nebraska for his own reasons. That includes everything about it from the head coach all the way down to the trainers.

Not to mention, it's interesting that people think recruits would change their college decision based off a head coach like Pelini getting emotional with his players and the referees during this particular game. The fear, of course, is how other college coaches will use it against the Huskers. For now, I think the recruits are well aware of Pelini's "passion" and how that comes across. Some yelling on ABC shouldn't change that.

I had one parent of a current Nebraska commit tell me one of the biggest things they liked about Pelini was that he was a "disciplinarian." It took no more than 3 minutes of conversation to realize that this didn't mean Pelini sending their kid into a glorified timeout either.

The fact is that Pelini is under the

microscope. With cameras pointed on him at every game waiting for an emotional moment, a player-coach scene, under game pressure, was bound to hit the airwaves. It was also bound to be blown out of proportion without anyone seemingly knowing how or why it started in the first place.

But it is hard to question his motives. He's never hid what his intentions are for this program.

He said it himself: "I'm a passionate person" and that at times he can get "too animated" like he did in College Station.

Do you want to know what part of Pelini's explanation on Monday recruits understood and had heard before? It was the part about where his priorities are – with the players and those planning to be a part of the program down the road.

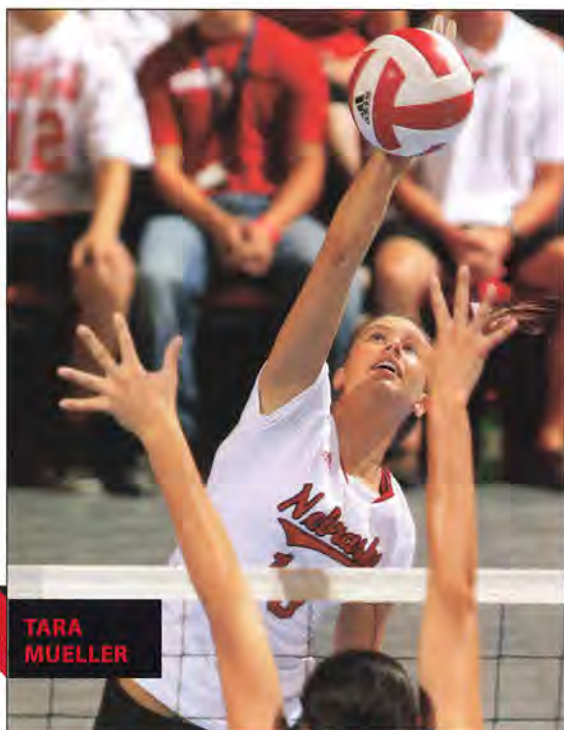
"I'm going to do everything in my power to make sure your kids have a fair shake and prepare them for the rest of their life in a lot of different ways," he said.

"I'm going to love them unconditionally."

You can criticize Pelini for his sideline behavior against Texas A&M – in all fairness, he criticized himself. But I don't think there is any question where his heart and motivation lie, no matter how he shows it. **N**

Seniors careers filled with success, sacrifice

Anderson, Mueller, Licht and Banwarth look to extend volleyball careers | BOB HAMAR



TARA MUELLER

PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

SYDNEY ANDERSON, TARA MUELLER, LINDSEY LICHT AND KAYLA BANWARTH WILL WIND UP THEIR COLLEGE CAREERS SOMETIME IN DECEMBER, BUT COACH

John Cook said they have all left their marks on the program.

"They've had really good careers here," Cook said. "Kayla is going to be a record holder. Sydney is up there in the records. Tara has been an All-American, and I'm hoping that Licht, if she can finish strong, has a chance to be an All-American. She's certainly putting up the numbers."

Each player had

challenges to overcome at Nebraska.

"Challenges are going to come when you're playing a sport for a long period of time," Banwarth said. "It's about how you deal with those challenges. You have your teammates there to help you and the trainers and the staff. It's really nice to know you have such a great support system."

Anderson, who spent her freshman year at Utah

before eventually joining the Huskers after spending time training with the U.S. National Team, was an All-America setter in 2008 and 2009 but had to split time with Lauren Cook this season in Nebraska's 6-2 offense.

Cook said Anderson's situation isn't unique. Setter Maggie Griffin had to stand on the sidelines in 2006 after being a regular in the 6-2 offense in 2005. Dani Busboom, the other setter on the 2005 team, moved to libero her senior season to make room for Rachel Halloway at setter, and the result was a national championship.

Cook said this 6-2 offense required some sacrifices from Anderson.

"That's the system that we have," Cook said. "Of course, all the parts have to fit at the right time, but she's done a good job. She's following in the footsteps of other people who had to do it. Maggie Griffin had to do it and Dani Busboom had to make changes, so it's just part of it. You have to go with what your personnel dictates and what gives you the best chance to win."

Anderson is high on the list of career-assist leaders



PRESSURE TO THE END

The Huskers entered the final week of the regular season just one win ahead of Texas. Coach John Cook said that kind of pressure can be good for a team.

"Once you have it clinched, you're always thinking about seeding and things like that," Cook said in the last week of the regular season. "I think right now it's good for us to know we have to perform. I think it sets us up mentally for the (NCAA) tournament."

It certainly doesn't hurt the Huskers to keep their minds on the business at hand.

"I think our team plays better when there is something on the line," Cook said. "It helps them focus and brings out the best for us."

BREAK AT THE END

The Huskers had a nice break with a Saturday off going into the final week of the regular season. The players had Thursday and Friday off that week, had a light practice on Saturday and then got Sunday off as well.

"We just wanted to give them a break," Cook said. "I watched Stanford (in a loss to California) over the weekend, and a lot of teams look sluggish, tired. It's that time of the year. I'm hoping this break came at a really good time for us and gives us kind of a second wind."

"The biggest thing is mental. It's a mental break, not having to just grind and grind."

2010 Schedule

RUNZA/AVCA SHOWCASE

SAT, AUG 28	KENTUCKY	QWEST CENTER OMAHA	W, 3-0
SUN, AUG 29	FLORIDA	QWEST CENTER OMAHA	L, 2-3
TUE, AUG 31	CREIGHTON	OMAHA, NEB.	W, 3-0

BYU TOURNAMENT

FRI, SEP 3	BYU	PROVO, UTAH	W, 3-1
SAT, SEP 4	CAL POLY	PROVO, UTAH	W, 3-0
SAT, SEP 4	IDAHO STATE	PROVO, UTAH	W, 3-0

AMERITAS PLAYERS CHALLENGE

THU, SEP 9	DAYTON	NU COLISEUM	W, 3-1
FRI, SEP 10	W. MICHIGAN	NU COLISEUM	W, 3-0
SAT, SEP 11	ILLINOIS	DEVANEY	W, 3-2

BIG 12 CONFERENCE PLAY

WED, SEP 15	IOWA STATE *	AMES, IOWA	W, 3-1
SAT, SEP 18	COLORADO *	NU COLISEUM	W, 3-0
WED, SEP 22	KANSAS *	NU COLISEUM	W, 3-0
SAT, SEP 25	BAYLOR *	WACO, TEXAS	W, 3-0
WED, SEP 29	OKLAHOMA *	NORMAN, OKLA.	W, 3-1
SAT, OCT 2	TEXAS *	NU COLISEUM	W, 3-1
WED, OCT 6	MISSOURI *	COLUMBIA, MO.	W, 3-0
SAT, OCT 9	TEXAS A&M *	NU COLISEUM	W, 3-0
SAT, OCT 16	KANSAS STATE *	MANHATTAN, KAN.	W, 3-0
WED, OCT 20	TEXAS TECH *	NU COLISEUM	W, 3-0
SAT, OCT 23	MISSOURI *	NU COLISEUM	W, 3-0
WED, OCT 27	TEXAS *	AUSTIN, TEXAS	L, 1-3
SAT, OCT 30	IOWA STATE *	NU COLISEUM	W, 3-0
WED, NOV 3	KANSAS *	LAWRENCE, KAN.	W, 3-0
SAT, NOV 6	TEXAS TECH *	LUBBOCK, TEXAS	W, 3-0
WED, NOV 10	KANSAS STATE *	NU COLISEUM	W, 3-0
SAT, NOV 13	COLORADO *	BOULDER, COLO.	W, 3-0
WED, NOV 17	OKLAHOMA *	NU COLISEUM	W, 3-0
WED, NOV 24	BAYLOR *	NU COLISEUM	W, 3-0
SAT, NOV 27	TEXAS A&M *	COLLEGE STATION, TX	W, 3-0

NCAA TOURNAMENT

FRI, DEC 3-4	NCAA FIRST AND SECOND ROUNDS	TBA
FRI, DEC 10-11	NCAA REGIONALS	TBA
THU, DEC 16	NCAA SEMIFINALS	KANSAS CITY, MO.
SAT, DEC 18	NATIONAL TITLE	KANSAS CITY, MO.

* BIG 12 CONFERENCE GAME



PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

despite only playing three seasons and being on the court part-time this year.

"It's pretty impressive," Cook said. "Every year she's been here we've been up really high in the assists-per-set category. I think we've been one or two the last three years in the conference. We've done a good job of putting the ball away with her here and that's how you accumulate those assists. It's a pretty cool accomplishment for her to be on that list."

Banwarth is at the top of the list in career digs. She passed Jennifer Saleaumua on the all-time list for digs early in November. Banwarth had just the kind of career Cook envisioned for her coming out of high school.

"Kayla is everything we thought she would be in that we thought she'd be a great libero," Cook said. "She ended up starting some her freshman year and of course has taken off from there."

Mueller was an All-American as a sophomore but has struggled with consistency in her hitting game the past two years. Cook said that doesn't take away from what she has done as a Husker.

"Tara has been a little more up and down," Cook said. "She had a great 2008, but of course she

was also playing next to Jordan Larson and I think that was a big help for her. I think this year Tara is playing good volleyball. She's serving and passing at a really high level. Defensively she's always been great."

And Mueller had made her greatest contributions in the biggest matches.

"You look at Tara over her career, she's had a lot of big swings to end games and end matches," Cook said. "So she's had impact on some big matches we've won."

Three of the four plan to go on with their volleyball careers. Cook said Anderson may play in Puerto Rico or with the U.S. National Team. Mueller and Banwarth also want to keep playing, although Mueller may play beach volleyball.

Licht, on the other hand, is going to be an elementary school teacher.

"You can imagine she has those kids' attention when she walks in a room," Cook said.

Licht struggled with injuries for much of her career. She was even in a wheel chair for a time after having surgery on both feet – and a shoulder – at the same time after her sophomore season. That was her biggest challenge during her career.

Around THE Horn

I BRIAN ROSENTHAL

THIS ISSUE MEN'S BASKETBALL BASEBALL WOMEN'S BASKETBALL SOCCER



BRANDON
RICHARDSON

PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

HUSKERS COLD DOWN SOUTH

At least the weather was warm in Puerto Rico.

Nebraska's shooting certainly wasn't so hot.

The Husker men's basketball team struggled offensively in losses to Vanderbilt and Davidson, then salvaged a victory

over Hofstra in the seventh-place game of the Puerto Rico Tip-Off to return to Lincoln with a 3-2 overall record.

In Nebraska's 59-49 loss to Vanderbilt to begin the tournament, the Huskers failed to make a 3-pointer (on 10 attempts) for the first time in 342 games,

dating to a Dec. 12, 1999 loss at Colorado State.

The streak was the fourth-longest in the Big 12.

Nebraska, held without a field goal over the final 7:49 of the loss to Vanderbilt, didn't fare much better from long range in a 70-67 loss to Davidson, going 2-of-11 on 3's.

CROSS COUNTRY

Nebraska senior Lara Crofford, competing in her fourth straight NCAA Championships, finished 129th in a time of 21 minutes, 33.8 seconds at Terre Haute, Ind.

Crofford and junior David Adams of York were competing for Nebraska as individuals.

In his first NCAA appearance, Adams covered 10,000 meters in 31:28.8, which placed him 135th. Adams was the first Husker men's runner to compete at the NCAA meet since James Bowler in 2002.

SOCCER

Sophomore Morgan Marlborough earned a spot on the Top Drawer Soccer Team of the Season. She's one of 33 players on the list.

Marlborough, with 18 goals and 12 assists on the season, ranked among the top five scorers in the NCAA. She was selected for third-team honors, after making the all-rookie team last season.

A native of Lee's Summit, Mo., Marlborough was also honored as a 2010 ESPN Academic All-American, adding to Nebraska's nation-leading total of 278. Marlborough is only the 12th student-athlete in school history to earn the honor as a sophomore.

"I can't even tell you how bad it is," Nebraska coach Doc Sadler said after the Davidson game. "Maybe it's the defense. I'm sure that's some of it, but a lot of it has to do with us."

The Huskers regrouped and shot 6-of-12 on 3-pointers in a 62-49 victory over Hofstra, a game in which 10 players scored, and Brandon Richardson had a career-high seven assists.

"It's probably more like I thought we would shoot the basketball when we came down here, but we just didn't shoot it well," Sadler said. "Have I been disappointed? Sure, I've been disappointed that we didn't win games, but at the same point I wasn't disappointed with our effort, I wasn't disappointed with our attitude, and I know the shots will start falling for us because we're good shooters."

Nebraska doesn't play on the road again until Jan. 12 at Missouri. The Huskers' 10-game

home stand lasts through the Big 12 Conference opener Jan. 8 against Iowa State.

DIAZ HOMECOMING

Sophomore center Jorge Brian Diaz was the only player from the eight teams in the Puerto Rico Tip-Off who was from Puerto Rico.

"When I got here Wednesday, I went home and spent some time with my mom and my aunt," Diaz said after Nebraska's final game of the

tournament. "And some friends too. I went to their house. We were watching the basketball game, and talking and having fun. I was pretty happy. I don't get to see them that often like I used to."

It's the first time Diaz's mother was able to see him play in a Nebraska uniform.

"I was pretty happy about that, that she could see me."

Diaz tied a career high

with three blocked shots against Davidson, and his 13 points against the Wildcats were also a career high.

"It would have been better if we could get those two wins – those first games," Diaz said. "I guess we got this last one to get us going back to Nebraska with some positive energy."

KELLY REACHES MILESTONE

Nebraska senior guard Dominique Kelley

scored 16 points in the Huskers' 87-79 victory at Washington State, making her the 26th player in NU women's basketball history to score 1,000 career points.

Kelly's performance came on the heels of her first career Big 12 Player of the Week honor. The Lincoln native had averaged 23.5 points and 6.5 rebounds in Nebraska's victories over Miami and Saint Mary's.

Through the Washington State game, Kelly was 39-of-42 on free throws for the season.



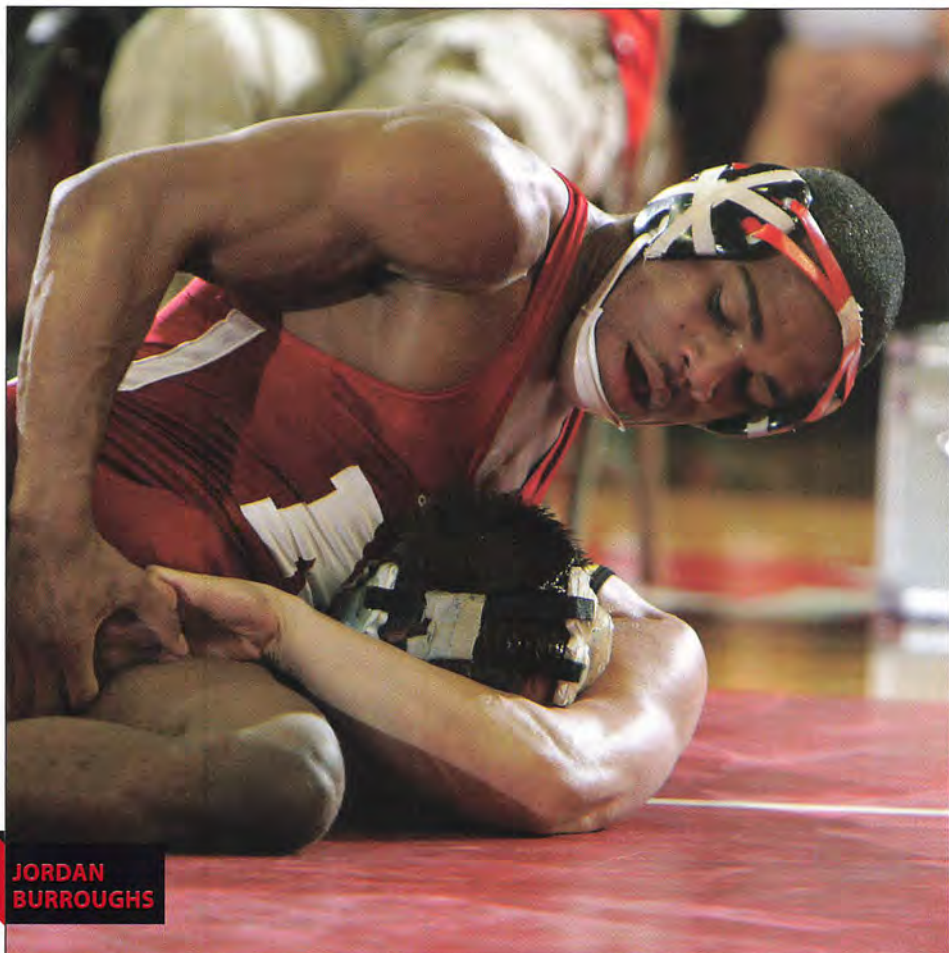
DOMINIQUE KELLEY

WRESTLING

No. 16 Nebraska won five consecutive matches in a 24-11 victory over Ohio State at the Buckeye Duals.

Senior Jordan Burroughs won by technical fall over Jared Kusar at 165 pounds to start the Huskers' winning streak. Freshman 174-pounder Caleb Kolb scored a major decision for his first varsity win, and 10th-ranked Josh Ihnen defeated Peter Capone. Senior Andy Johnson upset Ohio State's 14th-ranked Cody Magrum 7-4 to seal Nebraska's victory.

The Huskers rebounded after falling to No. 20 Pittsburgh 22-10 earlier in the day. Pittsburgh won six matches by four points or fewer.



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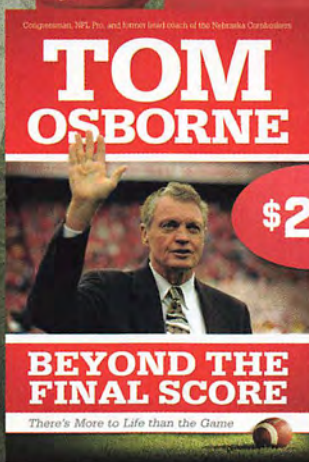
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FROM THE ARCHIVES |

END OF AN ERA

Nebraska and Oklahoma played for the final time on an annual basis on Nov. 1, 1997 at Memorial Stadium. The Cornhuskers and Sooners wouldn't play each other again until 2000, under the Big 12 Conference's two-on-two-off scheduling of cross-divisional games. For all intents and purposes, the rivalry was over. The 1997 game certainly wasn't a classic. The Huskers built a 55-0 lead with 5 minutes remaining in the third quarter on the way to a 69-7 victory, the most lopsided in the history of the series. The victory also was Nebraska coach Tom Osborne's 250th in 25 seasons (302 games), the fastest a major college football coach had reached that total. Freshman Bobby Newcombe (12), who played wingback and returned punts his first season before getting a shot at quarterback, caught three passes for 88 yards and a second-quarter touchdown. Grant Wistrom and Mike Brown led the Blackshirts, who sacked Sooner quarterbacks five times and forced seven fumbles, four of which they recovered.



GAMES REMEMBERED

FUMBLLED AWAY

Oklahoma loses six fumbles to help Osborne land first-ever win over Sooners.

WITH 3:27 remaining, Nebraska's Jim Pillen, a senior monster back, recovered a Billy Sims fumble at the Huskers' 3-yard line to preserve Tom Osborne's first victory against Oklahoma.

The fumble was the Sooners' ninth of the game, and the sixth lost.

Safety Jeff Hansen, a fifth-year senior who had started for only the third time in his career, and cornerback Andy Means, who had come to Nebraska as a walk-on, made the decisive hit.

Though the day was cold and blustery, the

fumbles weren't a result of the weather, according to Husker senior offensive guard Barney Cotton. Rather, "they were sticking fumbles."

Actually, Oklahoma lost 7-of-10 fumbles. On Billy Todd's kickoff following his 24-yard field goal with 11:51 remaining for the winning points, the Huskers' John Ruud, a back-up linebacker, hit Sooner kick returner Kelly Phelps with such force that the ball was dislodged and recovered by Nebraska at the Oklahoma 14-yard line. However, the officials ruled no fumble.

The Sooners went into the game 9-0 and ranked No. 1, while Nebraska had won eight in a row after an opening-game loss at Alabama and climbed to No. 4 in the national rankings.

Senior I-back Rick Berns carried 25 times for 117 yards and Nebraska's first touchdown to earn ABC television's offensive-player-of-the-game award.

JIM PILLEN: "When I saw 1:16 left on the clock, and no more timeouts for Oklahoma, I could start to feel that sand sifting through my toes."

NEBRASKA 17, OKLAHOMA 14

Nov. 11, 1978 • Memorial Stadium

Oklahoma	7	0	7	0	—	14
Nebraska	0	7	7	3	—	17

(O) Billy Sims 44 run (Uwe von Schamann kick)
(N) Rick Berns 5 run (Billy Todd kick)
(N) Isaiah Hipp 8 run (Todd kick)
(O) Sims 30 run (von Schamann kick)
(N) Todd 24 field goal

Attendance: 76,015

DO YOU REMEMBER?

- ▶ Husker linebackers Bruce Dunning and Lee Kunz were credited with 19 tackles and 14 tackles, respectively.
- ▶ Sims, the nation's leading rusher, ran for 153 yards but lost two fumbles. He would win the Heisman Trophy that season, becoming only the sixth junior ever to do so.
- ▶ The Huskers went into the game ranked first nationally in total offense (515.2 yards per game) and scoring (41.3 points), while Oklahoma ranked first in rushing offense (414.7 ypg).
- ▶ Todd's field goal represented Nebraska's first points in the fourth quarter against Oklahoma since the 1971 "Game of the Century." The Huskers had lost six in a row to the Sooners since then.
- ▶ In his autobiography *Bootlegger's Boy*, Oklahoma coach Barry Switzer wrote that his "1978 bunch (team) might have been the best." The Sooners would win an unexpected Orange Bowl rematch with Nebraska, 31-24.
- ▶ The Memorial Stadium goal posts were pulled down in celebration.



CROSSWORD & TRIVIA

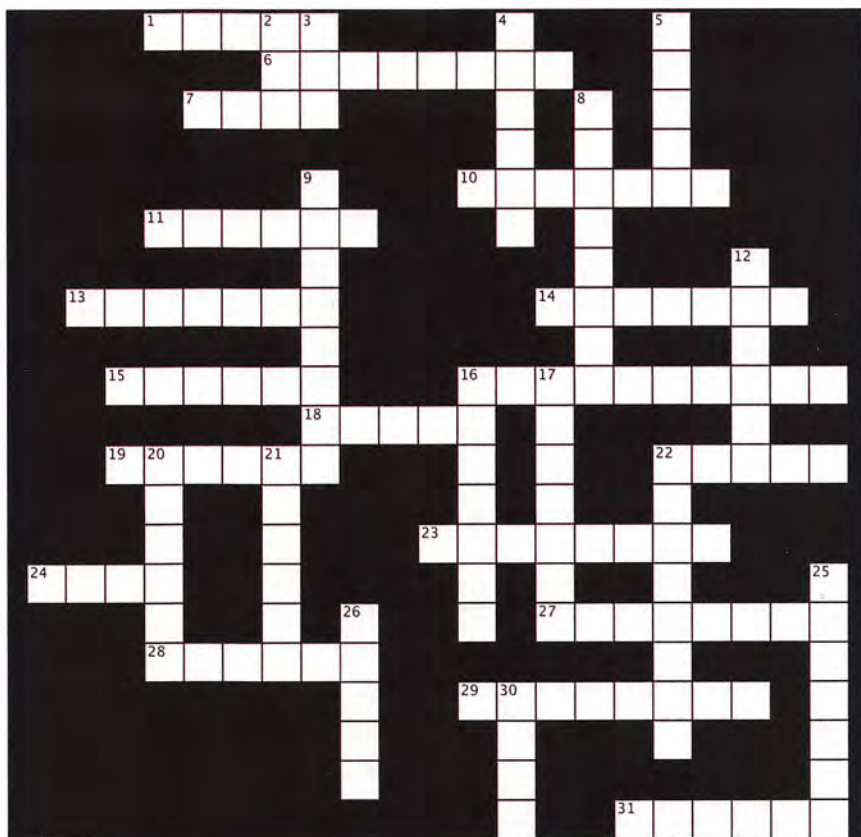
ACROSS

1. 2009 Big 12 champion
6. Leading rusher vs. Texas A&M
7. Ex-Husker punter now with Baltimore Ravens
10. Lavonte David's home state
11. Wears No. 71
13. Number of NU penalties vs. Texas A&M
14. 1997 Lombardi Award winner
15. 2003 All-America punter
16. 2011 non-conference opponent
18. Oklahoma State head coach
19. Oklahoma head coach
22. Wears No. 8 (offense)
23. Mike McNeill's home state
24. Bo's older brother
27. 1999 Big 12 champion
28. NU's second Heisman Trophy winner
29. 2003 All-America safety
31. Bo Pelini's college position

DOWN

2. Network for Big 12 Championship game
3. Had jersey retired at NU-Colorado game
4. Wears No. 53
5. Leading tackler vs. Texas A&M
8. Wears No. 34
9. Head coach in 1961
12. Offensive line coach
16. 2011 non-conference road opponent
17. Ex-Husker offensive lineman now with Jets
20. 1997 Outland Trophy winner
21. Defensive line coach
22. Wears No. 50
25. Wears No. 8 (defense)
26. Ex-Husker kicker now with St. Louis Rams
30. 2012 non-conference road opponent

Answers will appear in the January issue.



HUSKERNUTZ



YOU FINALLY GET TICKETS TO YOUR FIRST HUSKER HOME GAME AND YOU GIVE THEM TO THE KID NEXT DOOR WHO'S HOME ON MILITARY LEAVE.

BRAIN BUSTER

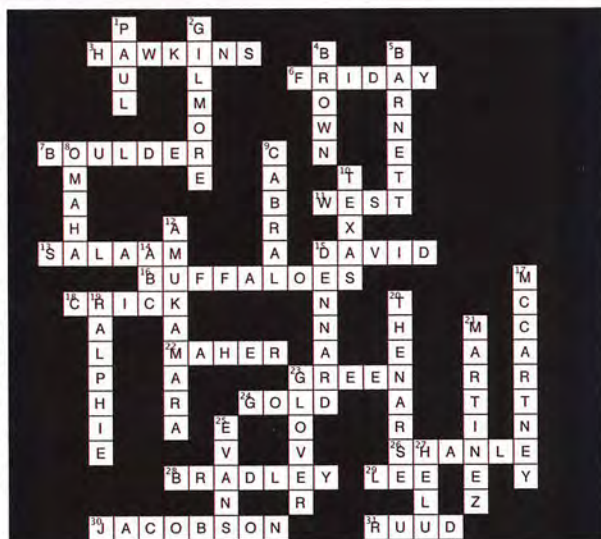
This will test your memory. According to Husker records, 10 Oklahomans have earned at least two football letters at Nebraska, beginning with end Richard Triplett (1920-21) and most recently linebacker Phillip Dillard (2005-07-08-09). How many of the other eight multiple letterwinners can you name?

If you can name at least six without help, you deserve a special "Go Big Red."

Answer will appear in our next issue

NOV. 26 ANSWER: Will Shields, 1992, Colorado, 16 yards

NOVEMBER 26 SOLUTION





THE FINAL WORD

BY MIKE BABCOCK

Heavy dose of Burkhead cures tough week

IN THE AFTERMATH of the Texas A&M loss, the apology for his sideline behavior leading into his weekly teleconference and the statements released by Chancellor Harvey Perlman and Athletic Director Tom Osborne, Bo Pelini's every action during the Colorado game was going to be recorded.

From the opening kickoff to the final play, at least one ABC television camera almost certainly would be focused on Nebraska's third-year head coach. That must have been the plan.

The producer had to be able to say: "Cut to Pelini, camera three."

This time it wasn't all agitation, however. Just over 4 minutes into the third quarter, for instance, the Pelini-cam (if there really was one) would have captured a brief smile.

The reason for the smile was a touchdown pass from Rex Burkhead to Kyler Reed. And though it covered only 4 yards, it characterized the Huskers' 45-17 victory.

The play was supposed to be a pass, a "pop pass," according to Pelini, with tight end Ben Cotton the intended receiver. Burkhead took the snap in the Wildcat formation and ran to his right. But Cotton was covered, so Burkhead "ad-libbed and just made a heck of a play," said Pelini.

Burkhead reversed field, ran back to his left and lobbed the ball to Reed. The pass couldn't have been used to

teach fundamentals, a right-hander running left.

But it produced the desired result and elicited the Pelini smile.

The touchdown pass was Burkhead's second of the game, and just the second pass of his college career. Late in the first half, he threw a 26-yarder to Brandon Kinnie, again out of the Wildcat.

"I kind of had to look at him: 'Hey, slow down a little bit. I'm the one that's supposed to be throwing (touchdown passes),'"

Green, who started in place of an injured Taylor Martinez, also threw for two touchdowns.

And though his passing wasn't perfect like Burkhead's, he completed 10-of-13 for 80 yards without an interception. Green "played a really good football game," said Pelini.

The same could be said of several Huskers, but none more so on offense than Burkhead, who also carried 19 times for 101 yards and the game's first touchdown.

"He ran like a man possessed, really," Green said. "For a guy his size, you kind of look at him and say, 'Oh, what can he do?' But that little guy, he's got a knack for getting yards, not going down and playing just so tenaciously."

Actually, Burkhead's not THAT little, at 5-foot-11 and 210 pounds. And when he's moving, he's not easily stopped, which Colorado's defense

quickly found out.

His first five carries were for 13, 2, 15, 13 and 11 yards.

Had Burkhead caught a touchdown pass – he had one reception for no gain – he would have joined Johnny Rodgers, Eric Crouch and Joe Ganz as the only Huskers to have a rushing touchdown, a passing touchdown and a receiving touchdown in the same game. That might come later. Burkhead is only a sophomore.

The touchdown pass is the toughest of the three for a non-quarterback. But Burkhead's first pass was "perfect; it was a dime," Kinnie said. "I went to Rex and said, 'Why are you so good, man? You're good at everything.' He just laughed, and I said, 'Perfect pass, man, perfect.'"

Burkhead was asked about Kinnie's comments.

"Uh, I don't know what to say to that," he replied.

With Martinez available only in an emergency and wide receiver Niles Paul sidelined by a broken foot, Nebraska's offense needed a boost of energy, which Burkhead in the Wildcat provided.

"Nothing Rex Burkhead does surprises me," Pelini said. "He's a tremendous football player, tremendous kid. Really, to me, he epitomizes what this program is all about."

After the A&M debacle, Nebraska needed an injection of that. **N**

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